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Success of other shows leads MTV to plug in plans for gay TV.

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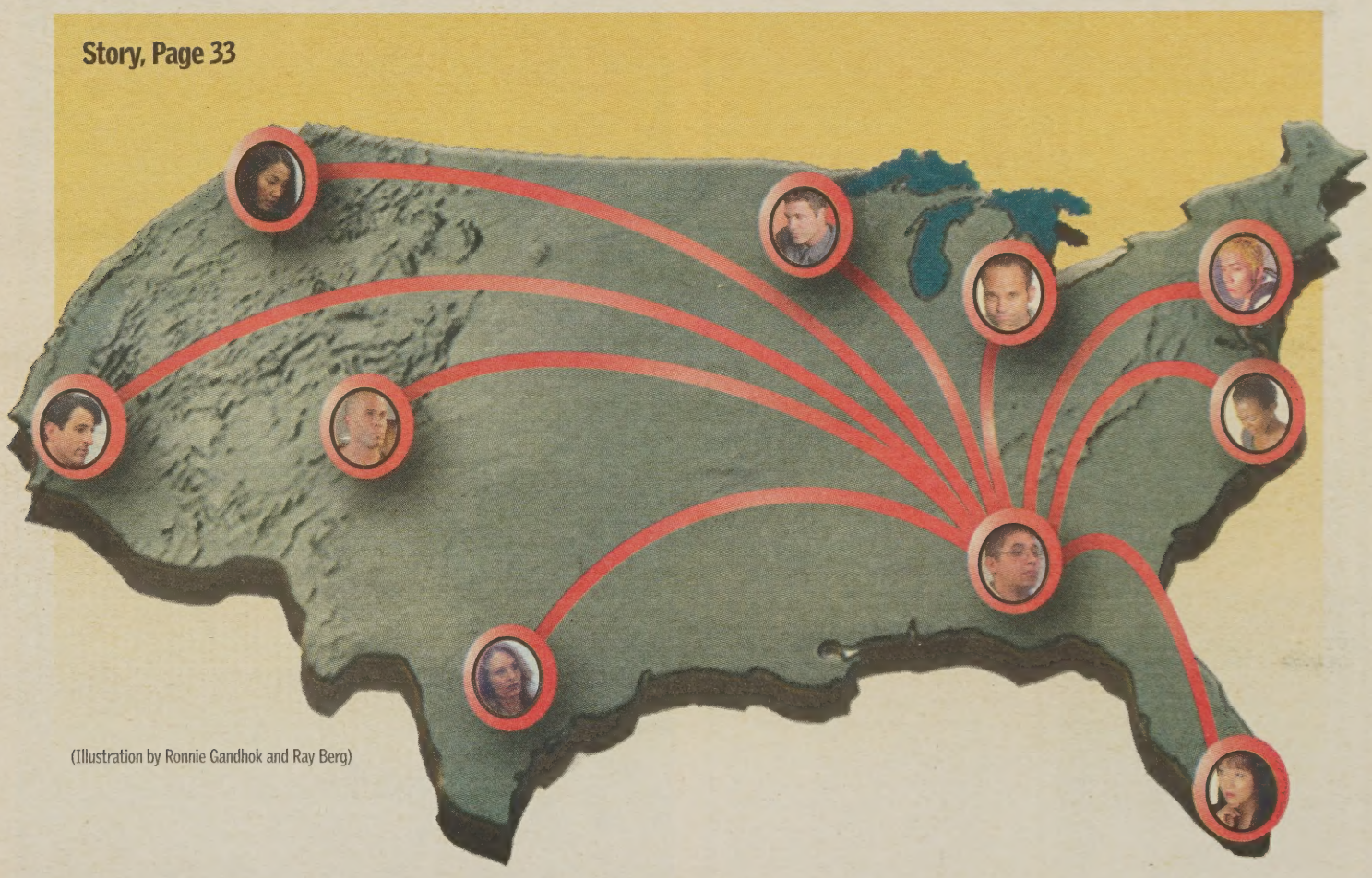

(Illustration by Ronnie Gandhok and Ray Berg)

AIDS WALK: Event hires new manager, moves to slash costs by 30%. **Page 3**

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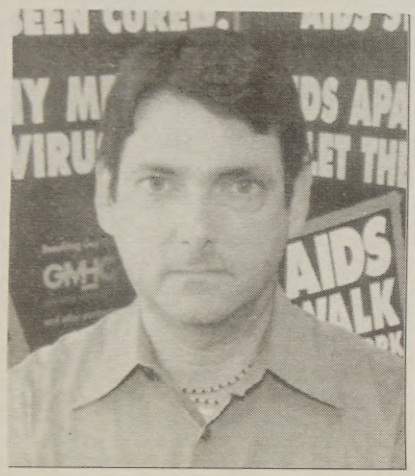
May 16th event raises $5.4 million.

AIDS Walk New York 2004 Breaks All Records

Atlanta's Walk Can Also Surge, Says Veteran AIDS Walk Atlanta Producer



Craig Miller is the founder of the AIDS Walk fundraising events.

By CRAIG R. MILLER

AIDS Walk New York is a long-running annual event that takes place in the heart of a caring city. So, too, is AIDS Walk Atlanta

AIDS Walk New York is an event that enjoys the passionate support of many hundreds of talented volunteers. So, too, is AIDS Walk Atlanta.

The northeast United States, particularly New York City, was once the epicenter of the domestic AIDS epidemic, and has suffered terrible losses. The southeast United States, particularly Atlanta, *is now* the epicenter of the domestic epidemic, and has suffered terrible losses.

There are of course differences between New York and Atlanta (including demographics and economics) that have bearing on these cities' respective AIDS Walks. But why is AIDS Walk New York growing while AIDS Walk Atlanta declines? The answer lies with the lead benefiting organizations.

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is led by a dynamic executive director and an active, engaged Board of Directors. GMHC operates with vision, passion and drive and has great relevance to gays and lesbians, people of color, and the community at large. A number of Atlanta area AIDS organizations have these qualities, too. But sadly, the AID Atlanta of recent years has been lacking these vital characteristics and now teeters on the verge of irrelevance. Disengaged and apathetic, the majority of its Board members did not even attend the 2003 AIDS Walk Atlanta.

Having been the producer of AIDS Walk Atlanta for 10 of the event's 13-year history, I know well that the scores of volunteers who support the event have every potential to produce the kind of huge success that Atlanta's fight against AIDS urgently needs. But AID Atlanta has become like a ball and chain around the ankles of AIDS Walk volunteers and participants alike, holding the event back with bungling bureaucracy, wastefulness and inattentive leadership.

That is why I felt compelled to decline AID Atlanta's repeated requests that I submit a proposal to produce future fundraising events on their behalf. Instead, I put forth four core principles (see www.aidswalkatlanta.net) that others and I believe should serve as the basis for any future AIDS Walk in Atlanta.

Having just two weeks ago produced the most successful event in the 20-year history of the AIDS Walk movement, I am more convinced than ever that, with fundamental changes in the structure of Atlanta's AIDS Walk, this important fundraising event can also reach new heights for the benefit of people living with HIV and AIDS in the Atlanta area.

For further info on these important topics and for notices of upcoming community forums, visit www.AIDSWalkAtanta.net.

Paid for by people concerned about Atlanta's fight against AIDS, including AIDS Walk Founder Craig R. Miller.
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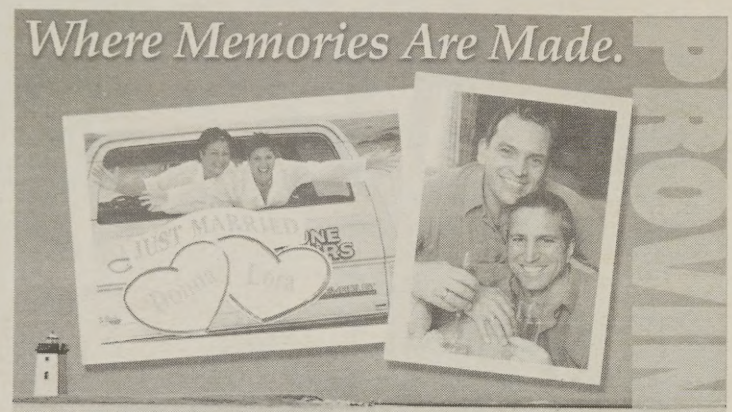

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atlanta news

AIDS Walk gets famous face, new manager

Former walk producer remains poised to host competing fund-raiser

By RYAN LEE

Kim Anderson, executive director of AID Atlanta, said the agency hopes to save more than $200,000 on this year's AIDS Walk. Craig Miller, president of MZA Events, has publicly criticized AID Atlanta since it fired him as walk producer last year. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

After months of controversy over whom would produce the AIDS Walk this year, AID Atlanta announced it hired a former employee of the production company the agency fired over high costs.

AID Atlanta, the walk's sponsor and lead beneficiary, released details of the Oct. 17 event on Monday after months of public and legal wrangling with MZA Events, the Los Angeles-based company that put on AIDS Walk Atlanta last year and was later fired by AID Atlanta.

The event will be produced by AID Atlanta and Afterglow Productions, a company headed by Keith Fenton, a former office manager for MZA in 1996 and 1997 when the company produced AIDS Walk Atlanta. AID Atlanta officials hope the move will help cut production costs by 30 percent.

Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., will serve as honorary chair of the event.

"Clearly Ms. King exemplifies and embodies human rights and fighting for issues of concern to the community," said Kim Anderson, AID Atlanta executive director, citing King's public concern about rising HIV rates among people of color and her "strong stand for the rights of the GLBT community."

AID Atlanta officials have been in a public jousting match with Craig Miller, founder and president of MZA Events, since the AIDS Walk last October. MZA produced 10 of Atlanta's previous 13 AIDS walks, but AID Atlanta severed ties with the company in November.

AID Atlanta maintains that it terminated its contract with MZA for the 2004 walk since MZA could not improve the cost ratio. AID Atlanta lost a $20,000 advance payment when it cancelled the contract with MZA.

Miller responded by hosting a public meeting about AIDS Walk Atlanta in December, and launching a public relations offensive that included full-page ads in Southern Voice and Creative Loafing and extensive media interviews. He complained that the event suffered in recent years because AID Atlanta keeps an unfair share of the funds generated by the walk.

AIDS Walk Atlanta raised a record $1.4 million in 2000, with 42 percent going to expenses, compared to $1.13 million in 2003, with 57 percent going to expenses.

The 2004 event, produced by AID Atlanta and Afterglow Productions, comes with a $440,000 budget, Anderson said. That is some $200,000 — or about 30 percent — less than the $640,000 cost of last year's AIDS Walk.

"We'll primarily be seeing savings in personnel costs because we are contracting with local individuals," Anderson said. "Walkers want to know as much of their dollars as possible is going to the community groups that the walk benefits."

But MZA's Miller said AID Atlanta's attempt at thriftiness by producing the walk in-house is the wrong approach.

"AID Atlanta's current leadership continues to operate under the mistaken impression that they can cut their way to success," Miller said in an e-mail interview. "AID Atlanta's answer to these tougher times in the AIDS epidemic is to spend less and do less."

When AID Atlanta last organized the walk in-house in 1995, after MZA Events managed the walk for two years, expenses for the event dropped 9 percent from a year earlier, but net returns for the beneficiaries dropped 26 percent, AID Atlanta officials said at the time.

AID Atlanta called those results "abysmal" and invited MZA Events back to produce the 1996 AIDS Walk, which grossed more than $1 million for the first time.

Last year, AID Atlanta paid MZA Events $95,000 to stage the walk. Anderson said this week that Afterglow Productions will receive $7,000 per month from May through November — or approximately $49,000 — for staffing related to managing AIDS Walk Atlanta.

Competing events?

Miller praised Fenton on his past work with MZA.

"I know Keith Fenton well," Miller said. "He worked for MZA as an office manager on a couple of our campaigns. He is a sweet kid, and a very decent fellow. I wish him all the best."

Fenton is president and executive producer of Afterglow Productions, a Norcross-based event management company which has played roles in events such as Atlanta Cares Dance-a-thon, CowParade Atlanta and Hands On Atlanta Day, according to the company Web site.

Fenton could not be reached for comment.

Miller said he might still follow through on a plan to produce an event to rival AIDS Walk Atlanta. Miller said he has called on AID Atlanta to adjust the way funds from the annual walk are distributed.

"AID Atlanta owes it to the public to explain to what extent, if any, other more worthwhile AIDS organizations will benefit from an AID Atlanta Walk in 2004," Miller said. "If ... AID Atlanta continues to insist upon an inequitable and inattentive approach to Atlanta's AIDS Walk, we are fully prepared, in concert with Atlanta's most effective AIDS organizations, to provide the community with a better event this fall and a fairer approach."

For the 2003 AIDS Walk, beneficiaries other than AID Atlanta received only the funds raised by their own teams of walkers. AID Atlanta received all other proceeds after event expenses were paid.

All 16 of the local AIDS organizations that were co-beneficiaries in 2003 will be sent contracts to participate in this year's walk, but no new groups will be invited during this transition year, Anderson said.

Directors of AID Atlanta have discussed altering the way money raised is distributed among the partnering organizations, but further details will not be available until the contracts are returned, she said.

Last week, AID Atlanta filed a motion to dismiss its intellectual property lawsuit against MZA Events over the name of the event and its logo. AID Atlanta filed the lawsuit against MZA Events in federal court on Dec. 23. Miller has said the lawsuit is a waste of AID Atlanta resources.

Ryan Lee can be reached at rlee@sovo.com.

MORE INFO

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Los Angeles, CA 90010
213-201-1348
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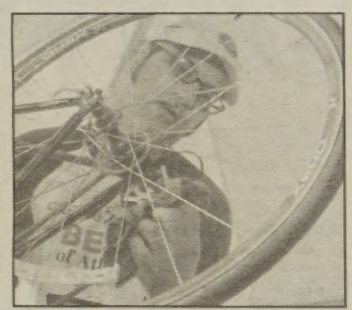
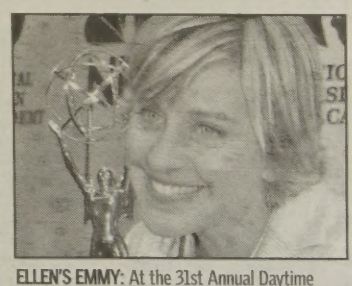
PRIDE TIME: Lesbian singer-song writer **Janis Ian** headlines next month's festival that promises to be a fun mix of politics and entertainment. **Atlanta News, Page 4**



RIDING OUT: Gay bicyclists set out last weekend on the Action Cycling 200 ride between Atlanta and Athens, a fund-raiser for the Emory Vaccine Center. **Photos, Page 21**



ELLEN'S EMMY: At the 31st Annual Daytime Emmy Awards last week, **Ellen DeGeneres'** first-season talk show took four awards. **Dish, Page 49**

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atlanta news

Pride to be packed with politics

One month from festival, corporate dollars up from '03

By RYAN LEE

With just one month to go before Atlanta's 34th annual Pride festival, organizers predict a decidedly political tone to this year's event, which celebrates the theme of "Equality=Justice."

"Our theme was chosen back in October, so little did we know how relevant it was going to be," said Donna Narducci, executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee.

To make sure the June 25-27 festival doesn't turn into just a three-day political rally, the Pride Committee has booked a host of acts to play on its two stages in Piedmont Park — ranging from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra on Friday evening to lesbian singer-songwriter Janis Ian, who headlines the festival on Saturday night.

But with a state constitutional ban on gay marriage set to appear on the November ballot, Narducci said many people have contacted Atlanta Pride calling for a strong political motif.

"There's a lot of interest, and I think particularly in the parade you'll see banner-toting, rabble-rousing type people who will take this year's theme to heart," she said.

Financial outlook rosy

The buzz surrounding the proposed ban on gay marriage has also helped boost corporate donations to Atlanta Pride, Narducci said.

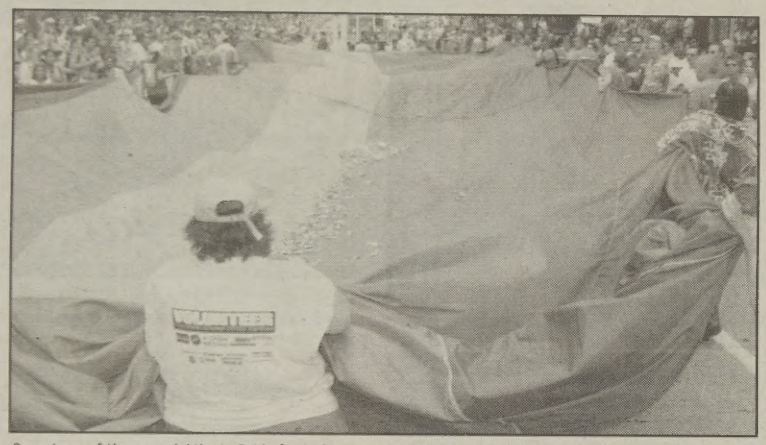
The Atlanta Pride Committee's annual operating budget is about $600,000, including the cost of putting on the festival as well as year-round expenses such as office rent and staff salaries, she said.

"New groups are seeing this as a great opportunity to reach out to a target market," she said. "They've seen the growing success of the other corporations and they wanted to jump in."

To date, the Pride Committee has raised $300,000 in cash sponsorships from corporations, an increase of about $60,000 from 2003, Narducci said.

Other income for the Pride festival includes fees for booths in the market, which is currently sold out, as well as an expected $50,000 in revenue from concession sales and $35,000 organizers hope to collect in donations from festival attendees, Narducci said.

MORE INFO
Atlanta Pride Festival
June 25-27
Piedmont Park
404-929-0071
www.atlantapride.org



Organizers of the annual Atlanta Pride festival expect a decidedly political tone for this year's event, thanks to the ongoing fight over a state constitutional ban on gay marriage. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

With concession sales and in-park donations subject to fluctuation due to uncontrollable factors like the weather, the Pride Committee strives to meet the bulk of its expenses before the event starts, she said.

"We always do the best we can to raise as much money in advance of the event, so we're not counting on hundreds of thousands to be raised in the park," Narducci said.

Grand marshals tapped

Allen Thornell, the former executive director of Georgia Equality who led the legislative fight against the proposed amendment when it was being debated by the state legislature earlier this year, was tapped to serve as one of the grand marshals of the June 27 parade.

Mary Anne Adams, executive director of ZAMI, an African-American lesbian group, will join Thornell as the other grand marshal at the front of the parade, which begins at the MARTA Civic Center station, winds through Midtown and disperses into Piedmont Park.

"I was very honored to be selected to represent the community at this time," said Adams, who added that she hopes gay men and lesbians of color will be widely represented among the more than 300,000 projected attendees.

"I think the tone of the weekend is going to be one of social justice, and it's really important right now that we be visible, and we really need a show of unity," Adams said.

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin won't attend the festival for the first time since she was elected, according to her spokesperson, Sandra Walker. Franklin is scheduled to attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Boston the same weekend, Walker said.

Four-legged friends will also be absent from this year's festival, after the Atlanta City Council passed an ordinance last year that bans dogs from festivals attended by more than 10,000 people.

Coupons to store canines at nearby Piedmont Bark for $20 per day will be available at the festival's main entrances, Narducci said.

New events planned

In an attempt to give young gays an additional opportunity to participate in Pride, the Pride Committee, ZAMI and YouthPride plan a Pride Prom at Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park on June 25. The event is targeted toward youth, who can attend for $20, but is open to adults as well for $35.

The dress code for the event is "prom festive," said Edward Gray, YouthPride executive director.

"I think it will have a bit of formality, but I think people will be in a wide variety of dress, as long as they are comfortable as they are," Gray said.

One of the events Narducci said she is most excited about is the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra playing on the Coca-Cola main stage on June 25.

"We first met the organizers of the symphony about five or six years ago and approached them about doing a concert, but every year it seemed like scheduling was always an issue," Narducci said. "We've always been looking for something to boost Friday night attendance, and this will be something totally new and different."

ASO Music Director Robert Spano addressed the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business group, in March 2002 in the midst of speculation about his sexual orientation.

"It's great," Spano joked about the rumors. "Now I know my classification: I'm openly closeted."

Whether Spano would conduct the Pride concert "never entered into any of the conversations I have had with ASO regarding their performance," Narducci said. "We never discussed who would serve as conductor [because] I believe that should be at the discretion of the ASO."

Spano was not considered as a possible conductor for the Pride concert as Alexander Mickelthwate conducts all free concerts performed by the ASO, said Minde Herbert, public relations director for the orchestra.

Ryan Lee can be reached at rlee@sovo.com.

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atlanta news

Miller 'most humiliated' showering with men

Ga. senator compares Iraqi prison abuse to his draft physical, showers

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

U.S. Sen. **Zell Miller** (D-Ga.) says being naked around other men was the most humiliating experience of his life. (Photo by AP)

Retiring U.S. Sen. Zell Miller (D-Ga.) recently continued his string of outspoken comments by comparing American soldiers' abuse of Iraqi prisoners to his own experiences as a Marine showering with other men.

"The two times I think I have been most humiliated in my life was standing in that big room, naked as a jaybird with about 50 others when they were checking us out," Miller told radio host Don Imus on May 17.

"Now that was humiliating. It was humiliating showering with 60 others in a public shower, that can be humiliating. But it didn't kill us, did it? No one ever died from humiliation."

Miller then rattled off a long list of "what people die from," including "getting their heads cut off" and "being burned alive or jumping out of windows 50 stories high" — references to the beheading of American citizen Nick Berg in Iraq and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Imus later quipped, "Whenever I was naked, I always felt sorry for the other guys."

"Yeah, bend over, spread those cheeks," Miller said, laughing.

Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California Santa Barbara, has described the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison as a reflection of "the most base, paranoid or extreme elements of military homophobia."

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, was uncertain this week how to interpret Miller's comparison of those incidents to his own "humiliation" of being naked in a room filled with other naked men.

"It's not clear what the senator meant, but it is clear that his comments were crude, sophomoric and unbecoming of a senator," said Cheryl Jacques, HRC president. "And, if they were intended to be anti-gay, then shame on him.

"There are countless GLBT soldiers putting their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan who deserve more than having anti-gay remarks slung by their elected officials," Jacques said.

Since Miller decided not to seek re-election this year, he has become known for frequent, fiery criticisms of the Democratic Party, the U.S. Senate, lobbyists in Washington and popular culture.

But the impact of the Georgia senator's most recent comments remains to be seen.

"They sounded more like the kind of anti-gay rhetoric that some teen-agers might throw at their peers rather than any contribution to a public debate," Jacques said.

Miller's remarks to Imus referred to "his mandatory physical he had to take that all men of draft age had to take back in the 1950s," as well as "each and every day in the Marine Corps when they all had to shower together in the same room," said Sheridan Georges, Miller's deputy press secretary.

Miller stressed in the interview, and in a May 13 speech on the Senate floor, that he doesn't condone the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, but he doesn't think the U.S. needs to apologize for it.

Those two statements "spell out his feelings on this issue, and he has nothing more to add to them," Georges said.

Dr. Jack Drescher, editor of Gay & Lesbian Psychotherapy, the official journal of the Association of Gay & Lesbian Psychiatrists, said Miller's comments constitute "an effort to minimize a terrible act by saying it's no big deal and trying to make it part of something more normal."

"The idea here is to try to minimize for political reasons the torture of Iraqi prisoners and to say, as Rush Limbaugh says, that it is like a college prank," Drescher said. "That's not a psychiatric problem, it's a political problem."

Miller's increasing outspokenness comes as his political influence may actually be shrinking, according to Charles Bullock, a political scientist at the University of Georgia.

"As he nears the end of his term, Zell's stock loses value," Bullock said, especially with Republicans firmly in control of the Senate, making Miller's frequent votes across party lines less crucial.

"While his frequent criticisms of the national Democratic Party continue to be applauded by Republicans, Democrats have given up on him as a lost cause."

MORE INFO

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atlanta news

Glass installer sues for HIV discrimination

Pink slip says Decatur man considered 'direct threat' over HIV status

By RYAN LEE

The parent company of an automobile window repair shop in Decatur has been accused of pressuring the local business into firing a gay man because he is HIV-positive, according to a federal lawsuit filed earlier this month.

Joseph Saavedra, 45, had worked as a glass installer at Service Auto Glass on North Decatur Road for just under three months when his manager called him into his office on April 23, 2003.

"I joked around and asked, 'What did I do wrong,' but then [my manager] said, 'I have to fire you for being HIV-positive,'" said Saavedra, who was first diagnosed with HIV in 1997 and has worked in the auto glass repair industry for more than 25 years.

"He said 'I thought about telling you a different reason, but I'm not going to lie to you — this is why you are fired,'" Saavedra said his manager told him. "'I hate doing this, but I've got to.'"

The manager then handed Saavedra a personnel form from Nodak Enterprises, the Murfreesboro, Tenn.-based parent company, detailing why he was fired.

"Employee is considered a direct threat to the safety of others since there is a potential for lacerations in his current position," the form read.

Saavedra first disclosed his HIV status when he interviewed for the job at Service Auto Glass in January 2003, and said it was never a problem with his direct supervisors. He was fired three days before his full employee benefits were to be activated.

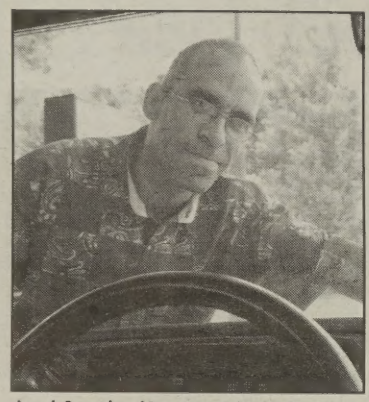
"I was embarrassed, I was upset, I cried for a few days," said Saavedra, who has since been hired and promoted by another glass repair shop in Atlanta. "I just lost it. I mean, they really hurt me."

Representatives from Nodak Enterprises, which operates 42 auto retail stores in seven southern states, did not respond to interview requests.

Saavedra contacted Atlanta attorney Michael Bozeman to see if he could file a lawsuit against Nodak for allegedly violating his rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits employment discrimination against people with HIV.

Saavedra and Bozeman met with lawyers from the Atlanta office of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay legal group that is now helping with the case.

Saavedra's legal team filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission office in Atlanta in September, and on April 13 Saavedra received a "Notice of Right to Sue" from the EEOC stating that the agency "found reasonable cause to believe that violations of the [ADA] occurred."



Joseph Saavedra of Decatur says he was fired from his job as a glass installer at Service Auto Glass after officials at the business deemed him a threat to other employees and customers because he is HIV-positive. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

On May 20, Bozeman and attorneys from Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on Saavedra's behalf against Nodak and Service Glass Auto in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, seeking lost wages and punitive damages.

"By terminating Mr. Saavedra, [Nodak] gave credence to irrational fears concerning people living with HIV, ignored well-established scientific facts about transmission of HIV and flouted the mandates of federal law," according to the lawsuit.

On the form used to terminate Saavedra, Nodak officials noted that "glass installation has accounted for approximately 11 hand/finger lacerations in 2002 (January to March) and approximately 20 hand/finger lacerations in 2001."

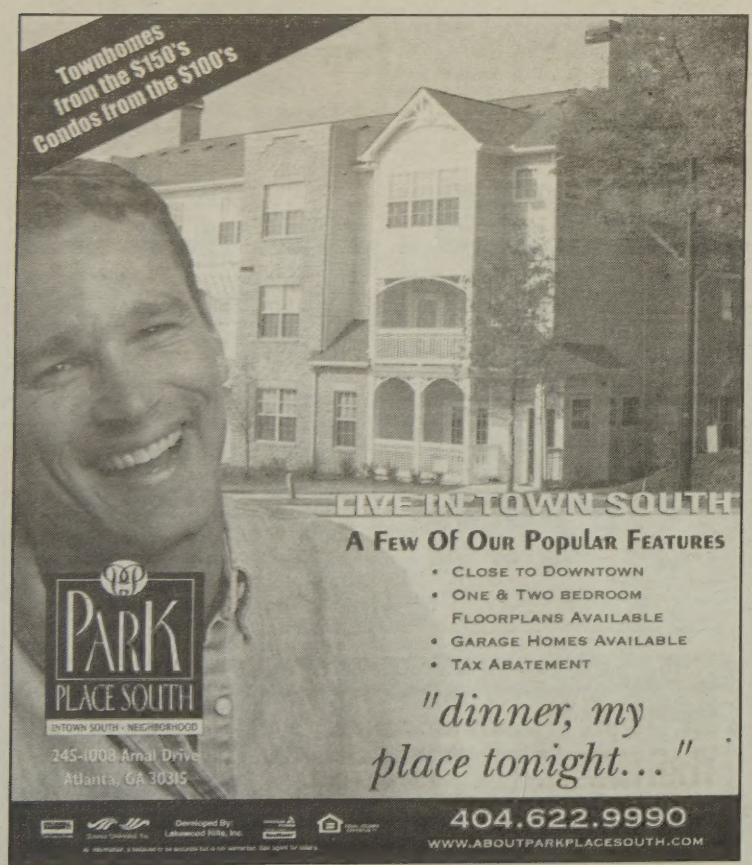
But Greg Nevins, a senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal's Atlanta office, dismissed charges that Saavedra posed a risk to customers and employees.

"The simple fact is he worked by himself out in the field and so it was very simple that if he got a cut, he would just take care of it himself and move on," Nevins said. "HIV does not survive outside the body."

A recent $600,000 settlement secured by Lambda Legal on behalf of an HIV-positive gymnast who was fired from Cirque du Soleil should serve as a warning to companies like Nodak, Nevins said.

"The impact of the Cirque settlement is that it tells employers that they can't simply label people with HIV as threats to others with unscientific assertions," he said.

Ryan Lee can be reached at **rlee@sovo.com.**



City of Atlanta

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed qualification statements FC-7703-04, JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ("H-JAIA") will be received by designated staff of the Department of Procurement ("DOP"), at 55 Trinity Avenue, City Hall South, Suite 1790, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, on Wednesday, June 30, 2004.

ABSOLUTELY NO PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1:59 P.M.

THIS PROJECT IS AN ELIGIBLE BIDDER PROJECT AS DEFINED IN §2-1443 OF THE ATLANTA CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND NO BID SHALL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE BID IS SUBMITTED BY AN ELIGIBLE BIDDER AS APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE.

Names of respondents will be publicly read at 2:00 P.M., in Suite 1900, 1st Floor, City Hall South, 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

Scope of Services: The City of Atlanta (the "City") is seeking qualification statements from interested respondents to provide professional janitorial services at H-JAIA as stated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

To be considered as qualified to submit bids, respondents must satisfactorily demonstrate the ability to meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Respondents must have a minimum of five (5) years documented experience managing, administering, and generating the type of services required by the bid documents.
2. Respondents must have performed said services in similar sized facilities-minimum requirement of 250,000 square feet.

All qualification statements must either be hand delivered, mailed via United States Postal Service, or delivered by courier service. No facsimile(s) will be accepted.

A pre-qualification conference will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 - 10:00 A.M., at the City of Atlanta's Technical Support Campus, 1255 Loop Road, College Park, Georgia 30349. There will be representatives from the Department of Aviation and the Department of Procurement available in the conference to discuss this project and to answer any questions. Respondents are strongly urged to attend the conference.

General instructions and specifications for submitting bid packages for this project will be available beginning Monday, May 24, 2004, and thereafter Monday through Friday 8:15 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., in the DOP's Plan Room, Suite 1900, City Hall, at a cost of $25.00.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please direct them to Clarissa Brome, Contracting Officer, at (404) 330-6204, or by email at, cbrome@atlantaga.gov or Jessica Boston, Administrative Assistant, at jaboston@atlantaga.gov.

The City reserves the absolute right to reject any and all proposals and waive any technicalities at any time.

atlanta news

Local activists arrested in protest at U.S. Capitol

AIDS action draws almost 1,000 marchers, two Atlanta men arrested

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Some 100 AIDS protesters were arrested in front of the U.S. Capitol on May 20 for blocking traffic as part of a demonstration that called on Congress, President Bush and Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry to do more to fight AIDS.

Those arrested were part of a contingent of nearly 1,000 people who marched through the streets of Capitol Hill past the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic National Committee offices, chanting "Fight AIDS Now" and other slogans before arriving at the Capitol.

Organizers called the event the largest civil disobedience action for AIDS in Washington, D.C., in the last decade.

"It was the right balance between anger and hope," said Suzy Subway, a protest organizer from Act Up Philadelphia. "Hopefully, our message was heard."

With Republican and Democratic officials watching from windows and balconies, protesters spoke briefly in front of the two party headquarters before participants marched to the West Front of the Capitol Building, which faces the National Mall. Those who chose to get arrested then sat or lay prone in a traffic circle in front of the Capitol grounds.

"The whole focus of the rally was to send a wake up call to Congress and both presidential campaigns," said Jeff Graham, executive director of Atlanta-based AIDS Survival Project.

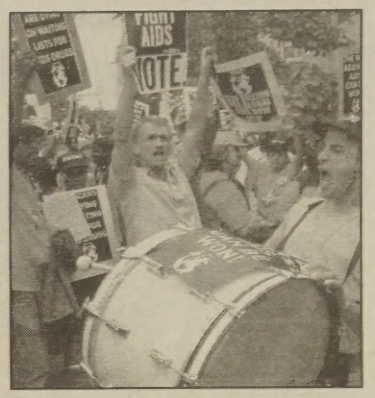
Graham was the 51st of 100 people arrested at the demonstration, marking the seventh time he has been arrested for civil disobedience. Like the other demonstrators, Graham was charged with unlawful assembly and paid a $50 fine. Arrested at about 1:30 p.m., he was freed around 8 p.m. that evening and called the experience worthwhile.

"Many of us on the front line are very concerned that the public has turned away, that elected officials have turned a way and many bureaucrats have turned away," Graham said.

Eddie Young, AIDS Survival Project board chair, and Greg Smith, manager of ASP's Positive Action Network, also attended the protest, and Young was also arrested.

"AIDS needs to be put back on the map," said Young, who has been HIV-positive for more than a decade.

Organizers said the traffic blocking at the Capitol was part of a civil disobedience action worked out in advance with U.S. Capitol Police. Other prominent HIV leaders arrested included Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS; Charles King, president and co-founder of Housing Works, one of New York City's largest AIDS organizations; and Sean Strub, founder of POZ Magazine.



Eddie Young (center), board chair for Atlanta-based AIDS Survival Project, joined hundreds of marchers at the May 20 AIDS protest. Young was among 100 protesters arrested at the event. (Photo by David Munar)

Also arrested was Bill Arnold, chief executive officer of the Title II Community Action National Network, a coalition of organizations that advocates, among other things, for more federal subsidies for AIDS drugs for low-income people.

On May 19, one day before the protest, the Kaiser Family Foundation released a report showing that more than 1,500 people in 10 states were on a waiting list to receive drug subsidies under the federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP.

President Bush has proposed increasing funding for the ADAP program next year to $784 million. But Arnold and officials with other AIDS organizations say next year's funding would be inadequate because 40,000 new cases of HIV are diagnosed each year.

Arnold, who also heads the ADAP Working Group, a coalition of pharmaceutical companies and AIDS organizations that monitors ADAP, said he and others who chose to get arrested at the May 20 protest have struggled "to convince Congress and the administration that ADAP is in need of still greater funding.

"I'm a 20-year AIDS activist," he said. "I believe strongly that this type of action is needed."

Heath Renfroe contributed to this report.

MORE INFO
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project
www.champnetwork.org

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national news

Sperm banks urged to reject donations from gays

Non-binding federal guidelines meant to curb infectious diseases

By JOE CREA

WASHINGTON — The Food & Drug Administration suggested last week that sperm and tissue banks reject donations from gay men, in what was billed as an effort to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.

The new, non-binding guidelines establishing eligibility criteria for anonymous sperm and tissue donors state that men who have had sex with men during the past five years should not be allowed to donate to sperm banks.

Private agreements between a man donating sperm directly to a woman seeking artificial insemination are still acceptable under the new guidelines, which go into effect next May.

Leland Traiman, executive director of Rainbow Flag Health Services & Sperm Bank of California, which actively recruits gay and bisexual sperm donors, said that official FDA regulations — and not the guidelines announced last week about gay sperm donors — grant authority to the medical director in each tissue bank to determine eligibility criteria for sperm donors.

"Regulations have the force of law and the FDA finalized the regulations last week without mentioning men who have sex with men," Traiman said. "An ACLU attorney and I agreed that the 'Guidance Document,' which says at the top that it is a 'non-binding' document, is no more of a problem than the CDC Guidelines of 10 years ago.

"Our attitude is that we won despite the media hype and inaccurate reporting to the contrary," Traiman said.

The new guidelines mirror those laid out by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in the late '90s for most of the nation's sperm and tissue banks. Like the FDA guidelines, the CDC recommendations do not have the force of law.

Dr. Jesse Goodman, the FDA's director of the Center for Biologics, Evaluation & Research, told Southern Voice that the new FDA rule was suggested in part because men who have sex with men are more likely to have HIV.

Lenore Gelb, an FDA spokesperson, said the proposed guideline regarding gay men anonymously donating sperm was "one recommendation of many" intended to help screen out potentially harmful tissue and sperm.

Dr. Jason Schneider, a member of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association board of directors and a faculty member at Emory University, said that while the guidelines do not have the force of law, they appear discriminatory.

"There are a lot of people out there who have risky heterosexual activity and they are going to be at risk for HIV just like a gay man would," Schneider said.

Rules don't keep up with science

Schneider added that while the government has a responsibility to protect the public from transmitting HIV cases from blood and other tissue donations, the regulations have not kept up with science, noting that tests can detect HIV infection within 72 hours.

"The decision whether or not to allow anonymous sperm donations must be made on an individual basis," Schneider said. "It's a matter of the health of the entire public versus the rights of the individual and right now it's falling a bit too much on the public side."

But Schneider reiterated that regulations — not guidance documents — carry the force of law.

"Some sperm banks may take that as the law or as a mandate but those sperm banks out there that are more open-minded about this will continue to have a good relationship with gay sperm donors," Schneider said.

The proposed guidelines were announced on April 8, 1999, and were set to be finalized in 2004.

The Human Rights Campaign, along with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, announced they all had submit-

Please see BANNED SPERM on Page 16

MORE INFO

Gay & Lesbian Medical Association
459 Fulton Street, Suite 107
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-255-4547
www.glma.org

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City of Atlanta

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed qualification statements FC-7706-04, PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVING CONTRACTORS will be received by designated staff of the Department of Procurement ("DOP"), at 55 Trinity Avenue, City Hall South, Suite 1790, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, on Wednesday, July 14, 2004.

ABSOLUTELY NO PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1:59 P.M.

THIS PROJECT IS AN ELIGIBLE BIDDER PROJECT AS DEFINED IN §2-1443 OF THE ATLANTA CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND NO BID SHALL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE BID IS SUBMITTED BY AN ELIGIBLE BIDDER AS APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE.

Names of proponents will be publicly read at 2:00 P.M., in Suite 1900, 1st Floor, City Hall South, 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

Scope of Services: The City of Atlanta (the "City") is seeking Qualification Statements from interested respondents to construct PCCP projects for the City's Department of Aviation's Capital Expansion Program at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport ("H-JAIA").

All qualification statements must either be hand delivered, mailed via United States Postal Service, or delivered by courier service. No facsimile(s) will be accepted.

A pre-qualification conference will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2004 - 10:00 A.M., at the City of Atlanta's Technical Support Campus, 1255 Loop Road, College Park, Georgia 30349. There will be representatives from the Department of Aviation and the Department of Procurement available in the conference to discuss this project and to answer any questions. Respondents are strongly urged to attend the conference.

General instructions and specifications for submitting bid packages for this project will be available beginning Monday, May 24, 2004, and thereafter Monday through Friday 8:15 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., in the DOP's Plan Room, Suite 1900, City Hall, at a cost of $25.00.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please direct them to Clarissa Brome, Contracting Officer, at (404) 330-6204, or by email at, cbrome@atlantaga.gov.

The City reserves the absolute right to reject any and all proposals and waive any technicalities at any time.

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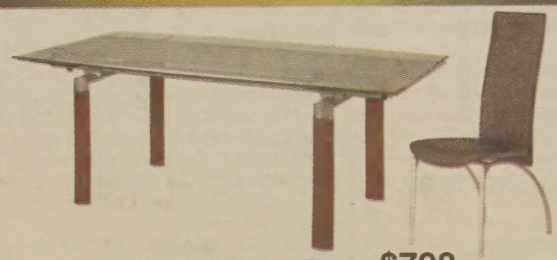
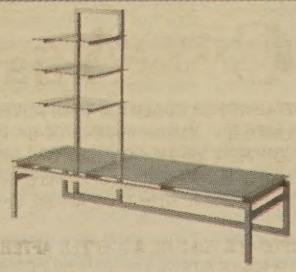
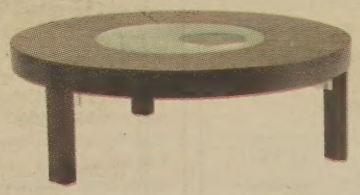


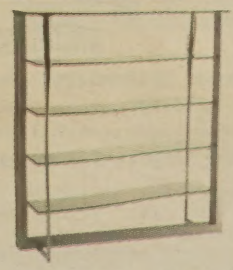
"Marina" Dining Table **$798**
"Serena" Dining Chair **$78**



"Studio" TV/HiFi Unit **$278**



"Pascal" Coffee Table **$348**



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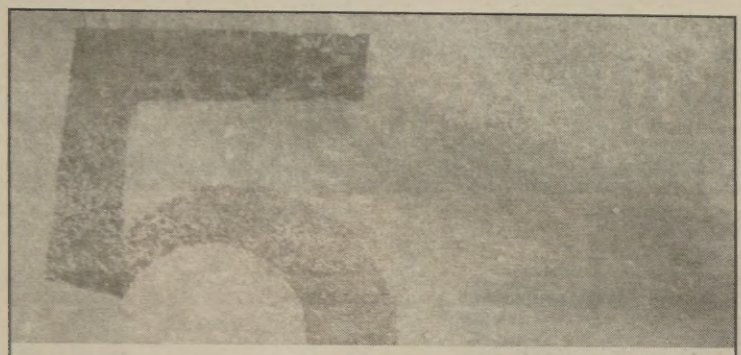

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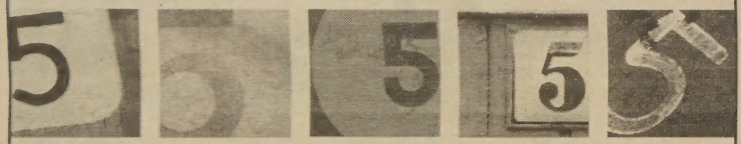

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national news

Calif. high court hears arguments on S.F. gay marriages

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's Supreme Court justices fired a barrage of skeptical questions Tuesday at a city of San Francisco lawyer who argued the city had a right to issue same-sex marriage licenses. The court heard two hours of arguments on whether Mayor Gavin Newsom exceeded his authority in issuing about 4,000 marriage licenses to gay couples. The city's argument is based on a belief that state law defining marriage as being only between a man and a woman is unconstitutional. The court was not asked to decide the merits of the law, but only whether San Francisco could ignore it. The state argued that city officials had no right to defy the law. Several justices indicated the city should have waited until the law itself had been ruled on. The court is expected to issue its ruling on the case within 90 days.

The California Supreme Court listened to arguments this week concerning whether or not San Francisco Mayor **Gavin Newsom** had the authority to issue gay marriage licenses. A ruling is expected within 90 days. (AP photo)

Former Ariz. Rep. Steve May considers another campaign

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Former state Rep. Steve May (R-Paradise Valley) is trying to regain his seat. He has yet to formally announce his intention for the state House of Representatives, but he has asked supporters to help collect 600 signatures on petitions by the June 9 deadline for filing. May first won office in 1998, but lost to fellow Republicans Deb Gullett and Steve Tully in District 11 in 2002. He gained national recognition when he waged a successful two-year battle to stay in the Army after he revealed his homosexuality in violation of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rule. He noted in an e-mail to supporters that after losing the last primary by 58 votes, he promised himself that he would never again run for the Legislature. "As politicians have done since time immemorial, I'd like to break that promise!" he wrote in the e-mail.

Steve May

KKK protests 'Gay Day' at Tenn. theme park

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (AP) — About a half-dozen protesters identifying themselves as Ku Klux Klan members gathered last week near the Dollywood theme park to protest a "Gay Day" at the park. The protesters were not allowed on park property, but they stood on a street near the entrance holding signs with Bible verses and derogatory remarks on them. Police reported no arrests or disruptions. One of the protesters, Ken Gregg, who identified himself as pastor of the True Israel Identity Mission in Knoxville, told the Mountain Press newspaper that people should be thanking them for their actions. "They are living a degenerative lifestyle," Gregg said of gays. "These degenerates don't need to be spreading their message around our children." The Gay Day event was organized by the Knoxville-based gay, lesbian and transgender group Tri-Cities Pride with no involvement from Dollywood. More than a thousand people were expected to attend.

Ariz. Supreme Court rejects gay marriage case

PHOENIX (AP) — A gay couple's challenge to Arizona's ban on same-sex marriages has been turned away by the state Supreme Court. Without comment Tuesday, the state's highest court let stand an appeals court ruling that upheld the 1996 state law. Phoenix couple Don Standhardt and Tod Keltner in December asked the high court to review the Court of Appeals decision, arguing the statute discriminates against gay couples and their children by violating the state Constitution's privacy and equal treatment clauses. The Court of Appeals had held in October that there is no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage. It found that the state has a rational basis for prohibiting same-sex marriage because of goals related to procreation and child-rearing. Standhardt and Keltner were denied a marriage license in Maricopa County, according to their original lawsuit, filed July 7. "With it being a pressing civil rights issue here, we thought they would see the injustice in the law being what it is," Standhardt said after hearing decision. The Attorney General's Office urged the Supreme Court to reject the appeal, contending the ban was based on legislative policies and not discrimination.

Wash. decision to grant benefits to married same-sex couples upheld

SEATTLE (AP) — A King County Superior Court judge has affirmed the city's right to determine employee benefits for married same-sex couples. Judge Bruce Hilyer last week dismissed a lawsuit against Mayor Greg Nickels over his recognition of same-sex marriages from other states. Hilyer ruled that the executive order Nickels signed in March, directing city departments to extend benefits to employees in gay marriages, isn't in conflict with state law and doesn't violate the city charter. "The court's decision is a great contribution to equality and family values," Nickels said in a statement. The two out-of-state legal organizations that sued on behalf of 12 local residents said they will likely appeal. The mayor's action defied state law, said Randy Leskovar, a West Seattle pastor and one of the plaintiffs. "This is a very classic example of an activist judge making law rather than interpreting it," Leskovar said.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Viacom announces launch of gay TV channel

Logo to hit cable in February as Comcast considers offering for Atlanta market

By BRIAN MOYLAN

Logo, an all-gay basic cable television channel backed by MTV, will hit the airwaves on Feb. 17, 2005, Viacom officials announced this week.

"What has been missing is a home, a home on television [the gay] audience can call their own," said Tom Freston, chair and CEO of MTV Networks. "We believe, with this new network, we'll be providing that home."

Officials at MTV Networks, which is owned by Viacom, said when the new the new cable channel launches, it will feature 25 percent original programming and 75 percent acquired programming, including previously aired shows and movies.

Judy McGrath, president of MTV Networks Group — which also includes VH1, Comedy Central, Country Music Television, Spike TV, Nickelodeon and TV Land — said that Logo has 40 specials or programs in the development phase and about 20 in the pilot phase.

No specific programming announcements were made this week.

"It's so important that we roll out a slate of programming that represents the diversity of the gay and lesbian audience," said Matt Farber, a consultant who proposed the channel and has been spearheading its development. "We want to have that ready and unveil it at a separate time."

That time may come at the Television Critics Association conference in mid July.

McGrath said that Logo would co-produce shows and specials with other MTV networks and other Viacom-owned properties like Showtime and CBS. She said those behind Logo are working with CBS News to create everything from a monthly gay newsmagazine to regular MTV News-style newsbreaks.

Under current arrangements, Logo will initially be available in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco. More cities may be added by the 2005 launch date.

No gay TV in the ATL

A spokesperson for Comcast, the major cable provider in metro Atlanta with some 600,000 customers, said that no arrangements have been made to carry the channel yet.

The success of gay shows like Showtime's 'Queer as Folk' convinced officials with MTV Networks to move ahead this week with the launch of Logo, a gay cable channel in the planning stages for several years. (Photo courtesy Showtime)

"We applaud MTV for developing a programming network designed to meet the needs of an important group of customers and we look forward to learning more about the network's programming and business objectives," said Reg Griffin, spokesperson for Comcast's southern region.

The company hasn't yet met with MTV Networks to discuss the channel and the possibility of adding it to Comcast's offerings, Griffin said.

MTV aims to have Logo in 14 million homes by the end of 2005.

As an advertising-based basic cable channel, Logo will be subject to the same standards for programming as any other basic cable channel, which means limited profanity and intense adult situations.

"We're not using profanity; we're not using sex," MTV's Freston said. "This is going to be mainstream programming that you see everywhere else, except for the fact that it's targeted to the gay and lesbian community."

Howard Buford, CEO of Prime Access, Inc., an advertising agency that represents Fortune 500 companies in gay markets, says that Logo has a better chance with advertisers since it's backed by Viacom.

"[Logo] will be the quality of an MTV or a Comedy Central if Viacom is behind it, and that is going to put at ease any advertisers who might be concerned about content," he said, adding that gay consumers are especially attractive to advertisers.

"Research indicates the tremendous loyalty that the GLBT community has toward advertisers that support their values and support their communities," he said.

Boycott threatened

MTV officials said they expected no backlash over the channel, but hours after Logo was unveiled, the Traditional Values Coalition announced it plans to boycott Logo advertisers.

"It doesn't improve television," TVC Chair Rev. Louis Sheldon told the Associated Press. "It only continues to offer moral anarchy for a very seriously dysfunctional lifestyle."

Buford, who is gay, said a boycott of Logo is ill-advised.

"If [Logo] is following the same standards [as other cable channels], a boycott becomes not about content, it comes down to hate," he said.

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"At this point, the long list of active marketers in the GLBT community has made it untenable to sustain a boycott action," he said. "Virtually every airline is active in marketing or advertising to gay travelers. Are people going to stop flying?"

The Human Rights Campaign and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation both issued statements applauding MTV's announcement of the channel.

Viacom has said for years it planned on launching a gay channel, but those plans never panned out. The idea was bandied about by the company as early as 1994.

In 2002, Showtime and MTV announced the companies were researching the viability of a gay subscription channel, supposedly to be named Outlet. The plan was dropped, but supposedly resurrected in December 2003.

In March, Viacom Chair and Chief Executive Sumner Redstone told the Wall Street Journal that he ordered Freston to come up with a business plan for a gay channel.

Stiff competition?

Logo will join two other gay cable channels, here!TV, which launched on satellite providers DirectTV in August 2003 and the Dish Network in March 2004, and Q Television Network, which announced this week plans to launch in July.

PridevisionTV, Canada's gay channel, which started in 2001 and is now in 25,000 homes, said in April that it was still looking for funding to launch on U.S. cable outlets this fall.

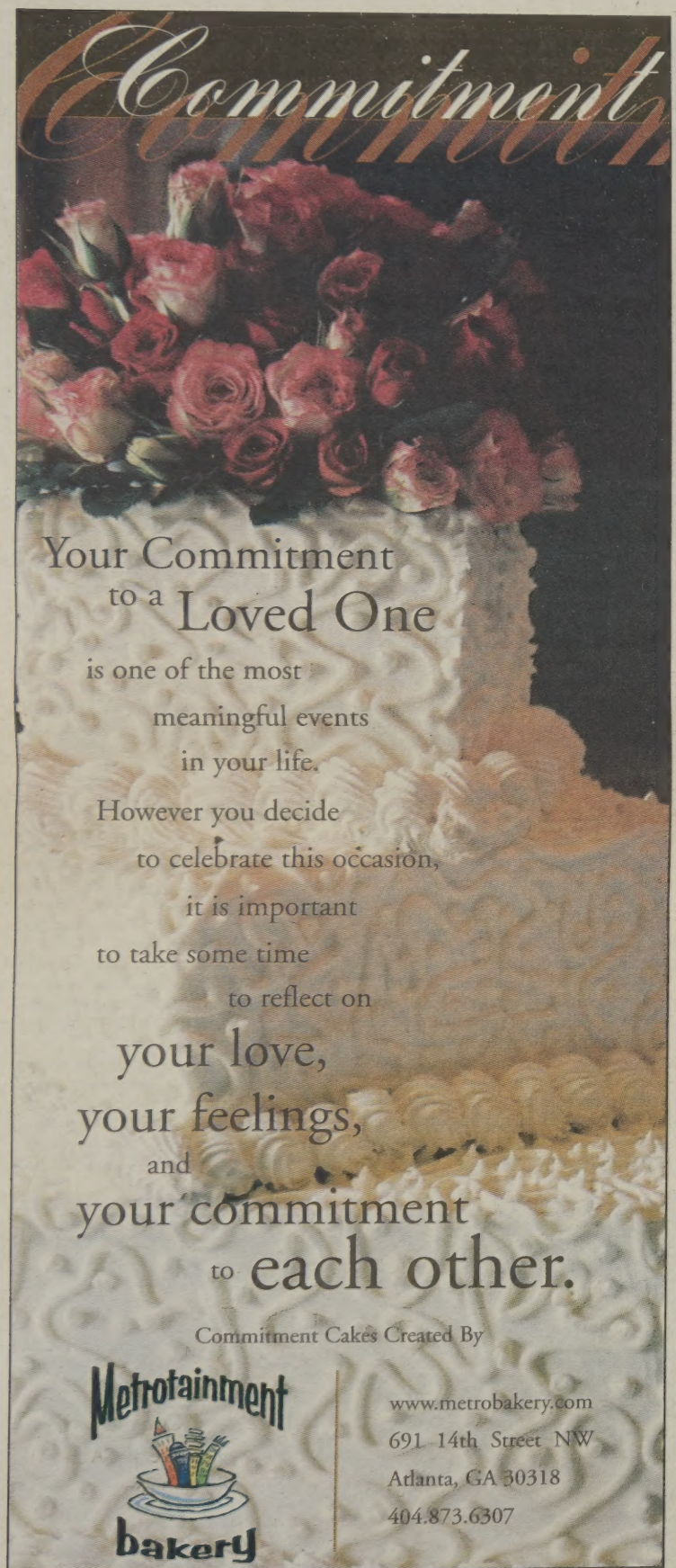
Here!TV is an on-demand service, where customers can order gay movies and original programming. It will launch as a 24-hour subscription service, similar to HBO or Showtime, with RCN Cable in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco in August.

Q Television, also a 24-hour subscription service, is scheduled to announce its cable providers and availability in the next few weeks.

Paul Colichman, president and founder of here!TV, doesn't see Logo as competition.

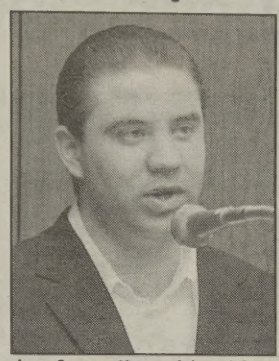
"Here!TV is a pay channel, and Logo is basic cable, so we're on different tiers, we're not competitors," Colichman said. "I'm pleased because, as a pay channel, we need a place to sell our programming when we're done with it. Now we have a place, so I'm rooting for them."

The original programming for Here!TV includes "Dante's Cove," a gay series that just completed filming, and "The Complex," a lesbian soap opera.



police beat

Defendant says he doesn't know how Calif. trans teen died



Jason Cazares, 21, one of three defendants in the killing of transgendered teenager Gwen Araujo, appeared to pin some of the blame for Araujo's death on the prosecution's key witness.

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP) — One of three defendants in the death of a transgendered teenager told jurors he tried to intercede for her the night she was killed. Jason Cazares said last week he doesn't know how the teenager died and he appeared to try to pin some blame on the prosecution's key witness. Prosecutors say Cazares, 24, along with Michael Magidson, 23, and Jose Merel, also 24, beat and strangled Gwen Araujo after discovering her biological identity in a late-night confrontation in October 2002. A fourth man, Jaron Nabors, initially was charged with murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter and agreed to testify against the others. Nabors told jurors that Merel and Magidson had sexual encounters with Araujo and began to suspect she was biologically male after comparing notes. Suspicions erupted into violence at Merel's house in the San Francisco suburb of Newark after another woman settled the debate by grabbing Araujo's genitals. Magidson's attorney has said his client was driven beyond reason by the discovery that he unwittingly had sex with a man.

Ill. family seeks help finding gay man's killer

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — A Rockford family is offering a $20,000 reward for information leading to the killer of a 31-year-old gay man who was found stabbed to death in his Chicago apartment. At a news conference in front of the apartment where Kevin Clewer's body was found with 42 stab wounds, his older brother Ron Clewer asked the public last week for help finding the last person believed to have seen his brother alive the morning of March 24. Kevin Clewer and a friend had left a bar around 3:15 a.m. in Chicago's Boys Town neighborhood, an area known for its large gay population, police said. The friend later told police that after they parted ways, he saw a Hispanic man in his mid-20s approach Clewer and the two headed for Clewer's apartment. Clewer's father found his son's body later that day after the victim's employer notified the family that he had missed appointments.

Pa. man re-sentenced to prison in near-fatal anti-gay beating

MIDDLEBURG, Pa. (AP) — A man who beat his neighbor nearly to death because of a perceived sexual advance was re-sentenced to between 14 and 40 years in prison. Todd Clinger, 23, had won an appeal in Superior Court after a judge refused to allow him to withdraw a guilty plea to conspiracy to commit murder. The murder conspiracy charge was dropped last week, and Clinger was sentenced for aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, charges to which he has pleaded guilty. "I personally would not lose a moment's sleep in sentencing you above the aggravated guideline in the aggravated conspiracy charge, but I don't believe the law would allow me to do it," Union-Snyder Judge Harold F. Woelfel Jr. said. Clinger and his younger brother, Troy Clinger, were drinking on their porch with neighbor Michael Auker in March 2001 when Todd thought Auker had made a sexual advance. The brothers first talked inside, then came out and severely beat Auker.

Northern Calif. newspaper chief to be retried on gay sex charges

YREKA, Calif. (AP) — The publisher of a small Northern California newspaper will be retried on four felony sex charges, the state Attorney General's Office said last week. Daniel Webster, 38, is editor and publisher of the Pioneer Press in Fort Jones, about 30 miles south of the Oregon border. He was convicted May 7 of a misdemeanor delinquency charge alleging he supplied marijuana and prescription drugs to a 17-year-old male employee of an Etna bed and breakfast Webster managed in the spring of 2003. After nine hours of deliberation, the Siskiyou County jury ruled Webster innocent of one count of oral copulation and one count of sodomy, but was unable to reach a verdict on the four other charges. In July, Webster published an editorial identifying his accuser as a 17-year-old male who worked for him. He wrote about being gay and claimed the alleged victim was also openly gay.

City, mother settle lawsuit over death of Philadelphia drag show performer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The city and the mother of a slain transsexual drag show performer have settled a federal lawsuit that alleged that police and rescue workers contributed to her death. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed in the wrongful death lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in September by Roslyn Wilkins, the mother of Nizah Morris, 47, who was born a man but lived as a woman. Wilkins' attorney, Lee Carpenter, said her client was pleased with the May 11 settlement but would not be satisfied until the killer is found. Still pending is a lawsuit against a bar Morris visited shortly before she was found unconscious and bleeding on a downtown street corner on Dec. 22, 2002. Minutes earlier, the suit alleges, she was dropped off by a police officer who picked her up a few blocks away and "waved off" paramedics responding to a 911 call seeking assistance.

From staff and wire reports

national news

Mass. cities stop marrying non-residents

Ambiguity over 1913 statute persists as two small towns still defy governor

By JOE CREA

BOSTON — Attleboro and Fall River remain the only Massachusetts cities continuing to issue marriage licenses to out-of-state gay couples despite orders from the governor and attorney general for town clerks to obey a law that forbids the state from granting marriage licenses to couples who cannot legally marry in their home state.

Provincetown, the gay-friendly beach town, officially ceased issuing marriage licenses to out-of-state couples this week but vowed to continue fighting the statute they say is "unlawful and unconstitutional."

Other cities that have issued licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples, including Worcester, Somerville and Springfield, ended their protests last week. The mayor of Somerville, Joseph A. Curtatone, left open the possibility that he may challenge Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly's orders to end the practice.

"We are looking at all our legal options," said Mark Horan, a spokesperson for Curtatone.

At the center of the issue is a rarely enforced 1913 law known as the "reverse evasion" law that prohibits Massachusetts from granting licenses to out-of-state couples whose marriages are not legal in their home state.

Last week, Reilly, a Democrat and likely gubernatorial challenger to Romney, said marriage licenses issued to out-of-state couples would not be registered by the state and will be declared void.

Reilly's understanding of the law contradicts a comment he made during an April news conference when he said out-of-state gay couples who live in one of the 12 states and the District of Columbia that do not have laws on their books expressly prohibiting same-sex marriage would be able to marry in Massachusetts.

Corey Welford, a spokesperson for Reilly, said that the attorney general had not changed his opinion.

But Reilly's contrasting statements have brought more confusion than resolution to several town clerks.

Massachusetts Attorney General **Tom Reilly** said that out-of-state gay couples cannot legally get married in Massachusetts. (Photo by AP)

Fall River City Clerk Carol Valcourt said with the guidance of her legal department, the city is following Reilly's original interpretation of the 1913 statute and will continue to issue licenses to any gay couple, so long as they attest that they know of no legal impediment to their marriage back home.

"We are verifying that [marriage license applications are] coming from a non-DOMA state," Valcourt said, referring to the 12 states and D.C. that have not passed a so-called Defense of Marriage Act, "and that there are no specific laws in the state preventing the marriages from being recognized."

She added that of the 19 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples since last Monday, one was issued to an out-of-state couple. The couple resides in New Mexico and the state has no law preventing it from recognizing same-sex marriages, Valcourt said.

Attleboro City Clerk Susan Flood told the Associated Press that the city solicitor authorized her to issue licenses to gay couples from the 12 states that have not adopted DOMA laws banning such marriages. According to Flood, the city has issued licenses to about eight couples, most of them from Rhode Island.

1913 law debated

Ambiguity over the 1913 statute persists. Last week, Norfolk County District Attorney William R. Keating said he would not prosecute town clerks for defying the 1913 statute because the law was enacted in part to prevent interracial marriages and has since been nullified by the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Loving vs. Virginia, which struck down interracial marriage bans.

"This 1913 law does not have the force of law," said Dave Traub, a spokesperson for the Norfolk district attorney's office. "It

Please see **1913 LAW** on **Page 61**

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national news

Conservative leader blames gays for Iraqi prison abuse

Knight decries 'decadence' of gay weddings

By ADRIAN BRUNE

WASHINGTON — A conservative leader pinned blame for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib and the subsequent beheading of an American businessman on gays getting married and serving in the military, among other acts of American "decadence."

Writing for WorldNetDaily.com, a site for religious conservatives, Robert Knight of the Culture & Family Institute said the U.S. has arrived at the "perfect storm" of cultural depravity, which came to a "deadly nexus in Iraq."

He specifically targeted the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts and the promotion of homosexuality in schools as policies that are putting Americans at risk for terrorism. He also blamed the presence of women in combat roles in the military.

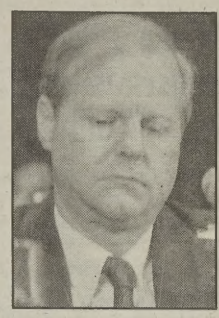
The comments by Knight, a longtime foe of gay rights, hearken back to the aftermath of Sept. 11, when Rev. Jerry Falwell ascribed the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center to "the pagans, the abortionists, and the feminists and the gays and lesbians." Falwell also contributes to WorldNetDaily.com.

"We were told homosexuality is harmless and normal, and the military should live with a 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy that allows homosexuals to stay in the barracks. We were told that men 'marrying' men and women 'marrying' women is inevitable not only for America, but for the world," wrote Knight, whose Culture & Family Institute is part of Phyllis Schafly's Concerned Women for America.

"Imagine how those images of men kissing men outside San Francisco City Hall after being 'married' play in the Muslim world. We couldn't offer the mullahs a more perfect picture of American decadence. Businessman Nick Berg, who was beheaded by a group claiming revenge over the prison abuses, is the first victim, and we can only pray he will be the last," Knight wrote.

Some gay activists criticized Knight's column.

"Robert Knight is way off base," said Steve Ralls, a spokesperson for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a litigation group that assists personnel under investigation for being gay.



Robert Knight wrote a column for a Christian Web site laying the blame for the Iraqi prisoner torture scandal in part on gays and women serving in the military.

"This is not about gays, integration of women or pornography. This is about a few soldiers in Iraq who committed deplorable abuse toward the prisoners entrusted to their care," he added.

President Bush acted swiftly to criticize Falwell's post-9/11 remarks on Rev. Pat Robertson's "700 Club" remarks in 2001. But the White House did not return repeated calls for comment on Knight's editorial, which also addressed at length Americans' duty to ask God for forgiveness and guidance in how to restore moral order.

Like Falwell, Knight did not limit his criticism to gays. He also censured the military for putting women into combat areas, saying the photo of an American female soldier leering at naked Iraqi men stimulated recruitment for the suicide-bombing training camps. Then, he charged the porn industry with providing soldiers with the idea to engage in the "sadomasochistic activity" at Abu Ghraib.

"None of this happened by accident," Knight said. "It is directly due to cultural depravity advanced in the name of progress and amplified by a sensation-hungry media."

In addition to encouraging "normal Americans to get on their knees and asking for God's forgiveness for letting it get this bad," Knight recommended they demand governments enforce the military's ban on homosexuality, withdraw all female personnel from combat areas and stamp out pornography in the military.

Knight also called for the strengthening of state and federal marriage laws and the cessation of civil unions and domestic partnerships.

"Our troops and civilian personnel in Iraq already are sitting ducks for terrorism. They don't need our enemies having any more incentives," he said.

Before coming to Washington, Knight wrote for the Los Angeles Times for seven years and was a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He has also worked for the Maryland Gazette and the Annapolis Evening Capital as a reporter.

MORE INFO

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www.cultureandfamily.org/cfi

international news

French mayor to officiate at nation's first gay marriage

French politician **Noel Mamere**'s announcement last month that he will officiate at the country's first gay marriage ceremony has ignited a national controversy over gay unions.

PARIS — Although the French approved the Civil Solidarity Pact in 1999, giving all adult couples many of the same social and economic rights as those who are formally married, controversy is surfacing over an upcoming gay wedding ceremony, the New York Times reported. Noel Mamere, leader of the small leftist Green Party and a member of the French Parliament, said last month he will officiate at the nation's first gay marriage ceremony, according to the Times. Mamere also is mayor of the town of Begles and will use that title to unite two men in a marriage June 5, the newspaper reported. "France is a hypocritical country," Mamere told the Times. "Marriage here is traditionally considered a Judeo-Christian value, a very strong symbol organized around heterosexuality." The French government opposes Mamere's planned action, and a verbal battle has erupted across the nation over the issue, the Times reported. French Justice Minister Dominique Perben said the upcoming gay marriage will not be legal, according to the Times. "To argue that sexual difference between spouses is not written into the civil code is to lie," Perben told the daily Le Figaro.

U.S. prisoner killed while awaiting trial in Mexico

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — A gay U.S. citizen awaiting trial on charges of fatally stabbing a newspaper editor in this border city died at the hands of a knife-wielding inmate, leading the U.S. Embassy Friday to protest the killing and demand an investigation. U.S. ambassador Tony Garza said in a press statement he "deplored" the killing of suspect Mario Medina of Laredo, Texas. Garza sent a "strongly worded" diplomatic note to the Mexican government, whose officials had ignored U.S. requests for protection for Medina. "We expect a full investigation into his murder and into the lack of protection he received despite our repeated requests," Garza said. Medina was stabbed more than 30 times Thursday during a prison brawl and died minutes after arriving at a hospital, said Juan Vazquez, a commander with state police in northern Tamaulipas state, where Nuevo Laredo is located. Medina, 23, and his Mexican lover, Hiram Olivares, were charged with the March 19 killing of El Mañana newspaper editor Roberto Mora, whose body was found stabbed more than 25 times outside his apartment building. Medina and Olivares, 28, lived in the apartment above Mora's. Prosecutors said Medina confessed to killing Mora in a jealous rage.

Taiwan television figure announces she is transgendered

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The "Queen of Auction" on Taiwan television said publicly last week that she is transgendered, according to the China Post. Born Wu Chung-ming in 1962, Liching said she had sex reassignment surgery at age 22, the newspaper reported. Liching's agent told the media that she became a star and top seller on the Eastern TV Auction Channel due to her husky voice, according to the Post. She started her career as a singer and, after a traffic accident caused the loss of her "sweet voice," the Post reported, worked as a model. News reports indicate her sales records including moving 100,000 pairs of underwear in one hour and 700 notebook PCs in 85 minutes.

Survey finds a high percentage of gay men in Indian city have HIV

MUMBAI, India — Although the numbers have been stable for four years, up to 20 percent of gay men in this city are HIV positive, according to a survey by the Humsafar Trust and the Indian Market Research Bureau, the Times of India reported. The study included 240 gay men and is the first of its kind, according to the Times. Although 92 percent of men in the city who were surveyed know where to get condoms, only 12 to 16 percent use them during oral sex with a man, the newspaper reported. The study also found that 27 percent of gay men were married and nearly half said they had sex with a woman in the last four weeks, the Times stated. "There is need to bring married men who have sex with men into the fold of healthy sexual behavior," Ashok Row Kavi, founder of the Humsafar Trust, told the Times. "A change in perception of condom usage is needed."

Aussie PM to move ahead with gay marriage ban

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister John Howard told his parliamentary colleagues Tuesday that the Federal Cabinet plans to move ahead with a plan to restrict marriage to heterosexuals only and head off three court challenges, according to a report in the Courier-Mail. Howard said he has the support of the opposition party, which has been lobbied by gay rights groups, the Courier-Mail reported. The Labor Party plans to remove discrimination against gay couples through changes to other legislation, the newspaper reported. There is no formal definition of marriage either in the Marriage Act or the Family Law Act, and until now the notion that marriage is a union between a man and a woman has only been assumed. But with Canada and one U.S. state now permitting marriage between foreign gay couples, conservative groups and Coalition backbenchers have been lobbying the Federal Cabinet to ensure that such unions would not be recognized in Australia.

From staff and wire reports

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national news

Bush's new AIDS czar gets mixed reaction

Former gay deputy in AIDS office passed over in announcement

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — President Bush named Carol J. Thompson, a former White House aide, as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy on May 12, ending speculation that he would leave open the AIDS czar post until after the election.

Thompson served as acting director of the White House AIDS office since August 2003, when the president named then AIDS office director Joe O'Neill, a gay physician, as deputy coordinator of the newly created global AIDS office at the State Department.

The president's appointment of Thompson as permanent director of the AIDS office came six weeks after the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS debated and tabled a resolution calling on Bush to immediately fill the position. Brent Minor, one of six openly gay members of the panel, introduced the resolution.

Minor said he and other PACHA members were concerned that the position had gone unfilled for too long, leading administration critics to charge that the president was backing away from his commitment to domestic AIDS issues. The advisory panel agreed to table the resolution after PACHA member Abner Mason, a gay Republican activist, lobbied against it behind-the-scenes, saying it would embarrass Bush.

Thompson's appointment also came six months after leaders of AIDS advocacy groups working with the AIDS office said the White House was about to name Christopher Bates, a gay official at the Department of Health & Human Services, as Thompson's deputy. Officials with AIDS Action and the National Association of People With AIDS said Bates had begun performing White House AIDS office duties from his HHS office.

Cheryl Robinson, a member of the AIDS office staff, confirmed these reports last November, saying Bates was expected to move to the White House AIDS office last January.

But Bates' anticipated appointment as deputy never happened. In November, Bates declined to comment on reports of his transfer to the AIDS office. He did not return a call this week seeking comment.

'Meaningless' appointment

Thompson, a California native, began working for the federal government in Washington under the administration of President George H.W. Bush in the Office of Public Affairs at HHS, according to the White House.

Thompson later moved to the HHS Legislative Affairs office as a congressional liaison before taking a job in 1991 with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. After Bill Clinton took over the White House in 1993, Thompson joined the Washington lobbying firm Hills & Company, which was started by Bush administration Ambassador Carla Hills, according to the White House.

Thompson later served as a manager with the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, a trade lobbying group. She moved to Texas in 2000 to work in the policy office of the Bush-Cheney campaign. Thompson joined the current Bush administration in January 2001 in the Office of the Chief of Staff at the White House, the statement says. It says she left that office in December 2002 to become deputy director of the White House AIDS office under O'Neill until she became acting director of the office when O'Neill left in August 2003.

Carol J. Thompson, who was appointed last week by President Bush to lead the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, has been praised by some AIDS activists.

Marsha Martin, executive director of AIDS Action, a Washington-based AIDS advocacy group, praised Thompson last August, when Thompson became acting director of the AIDS office.

"She always listened to our concerns and has been responsive," Martin said.

James Driscoll, a gay Republican member of PACHA, said he was pleased with Thompson's appointment, saying Thompson was sensitive to the concerns of AIDS activists.

But Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, called Thompson's appointment "meaningless," according to HRC spokesperson Steven Fisher.

Fisher said Jacques believes the White House has made the AIDS czar position "irrelevant" by failing to adequately fund domestic AIDS programs, especially AIDS prevention programs aimed at minorities.

President Clinton created the White House Office of National AIDS Policy in 1994 after AIDS activists and members of Congress urged him to create a centralized AIDS policy clearinghouse in the White House.

Clinton named former congressional aide and public health administrator Patsy Fleming as the first director of the office. He named Sandra Thurman, a former director of AID Atlanta, the largest AIDS service organization in the South, as Fleming's replacement in 1997.

In 2001, Bush named Scott Evertz, a gay Republican from Wisconsin, as his first AIDS office director, making Evertz the first openly gay appointment in the administration. Evertz had some experience in AIDS policy work as an adviser to then-Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, whom Bush appointed as HHS secretary.

Bush drew criticism from some AIDS activists one year later when he removed Evertz from the ONAP job and transferred him to HHS as a special assistant to Thompson.

O'Neill, whom Bush named to replace Evertz, treated people with HIV in a Baltimore AIDS clinic with a mostly gay male clientele before joining HHS during the Clinton administration. As a specialist in HIV medicine, he became the only ONAP director under Clinton or Bush with hands-on experience in treating AIDS, but he made almost no public appearances during his tenure and denied all interview requests.

FDA rules don't keep pace with science, critics say

BANNED SPERM, continued from Page 8

ted comments regarding the proposed changes back in 1999.

According to HRC, some of the suggestions made by the coalition were eventually adopted, including the ability for men who have sex with men to donate sperm directly to a recipient without requiring the freezing of the sperm; allowing gay men to donate directly to a recipient without a physician's required consent; and referring to donors as "eligible" and "ineligible" rather than "suitable" and "unsuitable."

John Givner, AIDS Project staff attorney for Lambda Legal, said the recommendation against allowing men who have sex with men to donate sperm is based on "stereotypes rather than science."

"According to present FDA regulations, those who donate sperm anonymously must be tested for HIV. That sperm is then frozen for a minimum of six months and then tested again," Givner said. "We really feel that the ban is entirely arbitrary."

Blood ban

Since 1985, FDA rules have allowed blood banks to refuse to accept blood from any man who has had sex with another man since 1977.

The restriction specifies seven groups of people prohibited from donating blood or blood products. Among the groups banned besides gay and bisexual men are people with HIV or AIDS, past or present intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, men and women who engaged in sex for money or drugs, and others.

In September 2000, the Blood Products Advisory Committee of the FDA voted 7-6 against a recommendation to change the policy on donations by gay and bisexual men. The committee was voting on a change that would have allowed men who have sex with men to donate blood if they had abstained from sex with other men for five years prior to the donation.

Heterosexuals who engage in high-risk sexual activity are deferred from donating blood for only one year. Intravenous drug users and prostitutes are permanently barred.

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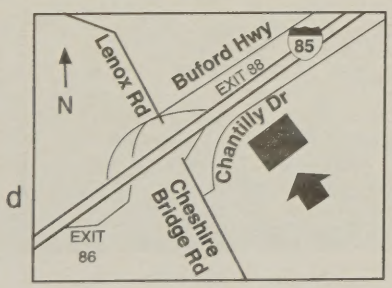

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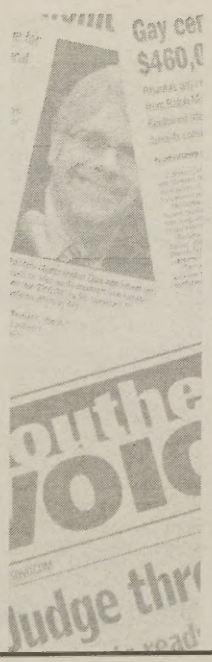

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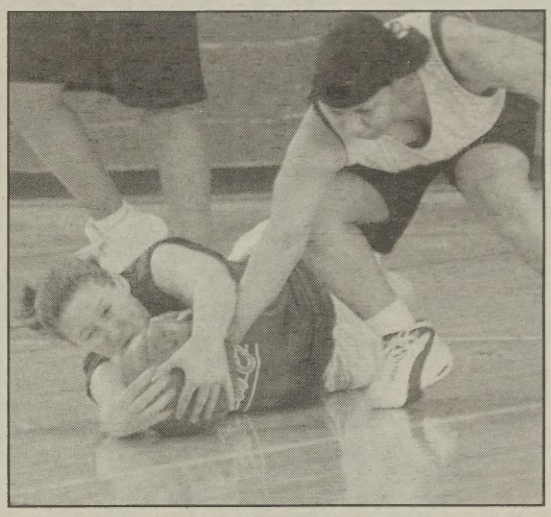

Last year's Rainbow Classic featured heated competition on the court, but event organizers say their ultimate goal is to unite local lesbians across racial and socio-economic lines. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Girls got game

Rainbow Classic unites five women's teams for day of 'family' fun

By VAN GOWER

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT WEEKEND'S Rainbow Classic Basketball Tournament say the event focuses on building unity among local lesbian organizations. But they don't deny that there should be plenty of friendly competition when five teams take the court June 5 for the second annual event at the Decatur Recreation Center.

"Yes, we all want to win," acknowledges Mary Anne Adams, executive director of ZAMI, host organization for the tournament.

Still, the group for African-American lesbians is most excited about the chance to interact with other women's organizations, Adams insists.

"I think most of the women just want an opportunity to play, get healthy and support each other," she says. "Winning is a by-product."

ZAMI's team, the Volcanoes, placed second last year behind the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative's Angels, who hope for a repeat win this year.

"ALCI is so excited about getting all these people moving," says Shirley Adams, special projects coordinator for the group, which is helping promote the tournament. "There isn't a good women's basketball association in town as far as we know, certainly not a lesbian one."

Standing between ALCI and a second trophy are three additional teams: the Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus, the BUTCH Starfire, and a collaborative team made up of members of the Women's Outdoor Network, a group of lesbian outdoors buffs and the lesbian business networking organization Fourth Tuesday.

BUTCH, a lesbian group formed in February 2003 whose name stands for Boldly Understanding the Common Her, participates in the tournament for the first time this year. But the team has already received a warm welcome, says Roz Caffey, BUTCH founder and president.

"The tournament has worked with us in terms of helping women get beyond the tragedies and problems they've had in the past," Caffey says. "Basketball itself and the tournament provide an avenue for women to shake off anything."

THE RAINBOW CLASSIC OFFERS plenty of action on the court, but organizers also plan a variety of other entertainment designed to draw a wide range of spectators.

Members of FamilyPride of the South, an Atlanta-based social and support organization for gay parents and their children, is scheduled to perform during the halftime show. Musical entertainment is provided by the Atlanta Freedom Marching Band, DJ Dante, ZAMI's all-women drumming circle Drum Sistas as well as jazz vocalists Lilli Lewis and Janiece Thompson.

Unity Fellowship Church is also set to be on hand selling concessions.

"We're really trying to make this a family day, including kids," Adams says. "We want the whole LGBT community to come out and have a good time."

Local lesbian politicians invited to speak, but not confirmed by press time, include State Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates) and Atlanta City Council member Anne Fauver, as well as Cathy Woolard, the former Atlanta City Council president currently running for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The day wraps up with an after party at Phaze 1 lounge in Stone Mountain with food, drinks and prizes.

THE RAINBOW CLASSIC IS SPONsored this year by the Rainbow Center, which donated the first place trophy, as well as the graphic design firms Digidot Design and EM Design, which donated t-shirts and print-design services.

Last year's Classic netted $900 in proceeds that were split evenly among the four participating teams, Adams says. This year's proceeds primarily benefit the DeKalb Women's Resource Center, with a portion going toward ZAMI's Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund.

Fund-raising is important, but Adams sees community building as a core mission for the Rainbow Classic.

"One of the good, positive things to come out of organizing tourney teams each year is that we're able to bring out new women we've not been previously introduced to who want to play on the basketball team," she says.

"[It's good for] building community, networking and building relationships with each other," she adds. "It's also good to cross racial lines and class lines."

Van Gower can be reached at **vgower@sovo.com.**

MORE INFO

Rainbow Classic Basketball Tournament
June 5, 11 a.m. tip-off
Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore St., Decatur
$10 general admission, $3 children
404-370-0920
www.zami.org

Rainbow Classic Afterparty
June 5, 6:30 p.m.-midnight
Phaze 1 Lounge
4922 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain
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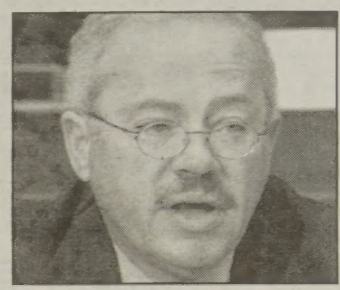
notes



Former Congress member **Bob Barr** (R-Ga.) talks politics June 3 with the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans. But the meeting is for Log Cabin members only, and memberships will not be available at the event. Networking begins at 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Georgia Tech Learning Center, 84 5th St. NW, Room 319. www.lcrga.com

Local spiritual leaders including Rev. **Antonio Jones** of Unity Fellowship Church and Marsha Mitchiner of First Existentialist Congregration of Atlanta take questions at 'Reclaiming the Sacred: Homosexuality and Spirituality,' June 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

FRIDAY MAY 28 – SUNDAY MAY 30

GAY GAMES: Gay sports dominate Memorial Day Weekend in Atlanta when 80 soccer players from five national teams arrive for the 2004 Hotlanta Sports Classic in Piedmont Park, and some 42 national softball teams meet for the separate Hotlanta Softball Challenge at the Metro Atlanta Softball Complex. Hotlanta Sports Classic: www.hotlantasoccer.com; Hotlanta Softball Challenge: 404-875-9881, www.hotlantasoftball.org

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2

AIDS EDUCATION: Laura Maroldo of New York City's West Midtown Medical Group discusses strains of HIV that no longer respond to treatment during AIDS Survival Project's free June meeting 'Resistance Testing of HIV,' from 12-2 p.m. at AIDS Survival Project, 139 Ralph McGill Blvd. Pre-registration required. 404-874-7926, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

SUNDAY JUNE 6

SUPER STUDENTS: The PFLAG-Atlanta Scholarship Awards honor four Georgia students for their academic excellence and gay activism. Decatur City Commissioner Kecia Cunningham, who is gay, serves as emcee, and Our Song gay and lesbian chorus performs. Reception at 2:30 p.m. and ceremony at 3 p.m. at First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 770-662-6475, www.pflagatl.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, **Page 20** CYCLING PHOTOS, **Page 21** HEALTH NEWS, **Page 23**

community calendar

SATURDAY MAY 29
ONGOING EVENTS

ALTLANTA QUEERS. New social and networking group forming for rock, alternative, indie culture, and like-minded GLBT's. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altlanta_queers
ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER NETWORK. Women's and trans-women's social organization. 404-795-0680, www.aplbtn.net
FAMILYPRIDE OF THE SOUTH. Support and networking group for gay parents and their children. 770-640-1915, www.familypridesouth.org
KNOW THY NEIGHBOR CLUB. Decatur to Virginia-Highlands area women's dining and socializing group. 404-273-5751.
NORTH ATLANTA OWLS. Older wiser lesbians (50 +) meet for fun and friendship. Locations and activities vary. Mfinatlanta@yahoo.com

SUNDAY MAY 30
ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS. Non-auditioned. 3:45 p.m. rehearsal at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE. 770-438-5823, www.AFWCChorus.org
BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Coming out support group. 4-6 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 North Candler Road, Decatur. 404-370-0920, www.youthpride.org
COME OUT DANCING. Weekly beginning salsa and East Coast swing lessons at 2 p.m., and Argentine tango dance lessons at 4:30 p.m. for gays at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way NE. Register 404-876-3950, comeoutdancing@mindspring.com
LAMBDA GROUP. Family beyond the northern perimeter, and dining-out. Time varies. 770-457-5264, lambda-group@msn.com
YOUTHPRIDE. Black males age 13-24 social and discussion group meets 6-8:30 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

MONDAY MAY 31
ONGOING EVENTS

DREAD GYRLZ INC. Dread Gyrlz Inc., a group for lesbians of color, meets at 8 p.m. 404-299-0030, deadgyrlz04@yahoo.com
HOTLANTA SQUARES. Gay square dancing beginner class from 7-8:30 p.m., intermediate class from 8:30-10 p.m. at First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 770-329-3146, www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta
YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY OUTREACH INITIATIVE. Open drop-in social hours from 12-6 p.m. at AID Atlanta, 1438 West Peachtree St. NW, Suite 100. 404-870-7746, www.aidatlanta.org
YOUTHPRIDE. Transgenders and friends support group meets 6:30-8 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

TUESDAY JUNE 1
ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA GAY WRITERS ASSOCIATION. Monthly "Open Critique Night" from 7-8:30 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 678-524-182, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Atlanta_Gay_Writers
BOY TALK. Gay men ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org
CHARIS CIRCLE. Weekly meeting of high school age women writers. 5-6:30 p.m. Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org
GEORGIA DYKES ON BIKES. 7 p.m. at Cowtippers, 1600 Piedmont Ave. www.georgia.dykesonbikes.org
HOTLANTA SQUARES. Gay square dancing advanced class from 8-10 p.m. at First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 770-329-3146, www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta
OURSONG. Rehearsal 7:15-9:30 p.m. at Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 E. Lake Drive, Decatur. 404-542-3025, www.oursongatlanta.com
WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP. Twice-monthly talk and workshops for lesbian, bisexual, and questioning women from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rainbow Center in the office of Congregation Bet Haverim, 2676 Clairmont Road NE. 404-235-6800, www.therainbowcenter.org
WOMYN'S GROUP. Gay women ages 18-24 watch and discuss "The L Word." 6:30-8 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org
YOUTHPRIDE. Drop-in hours from 4-6:30 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org
ZAMI. Audre Lorde reading and discussion group from 7-8:30 p.m. at the ZAMI office, 111 East Maple Street, Decatur. 404-370-0920, www.zami.org

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 2
ONGOING EVENTS

CHARIS CIRCLE. Monthly trans-inclusive women's book group discusses April Sinclair's "Coffee Will Make You Black" at 7:15 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org
IN THE LIFE. Support group for gay and bisexual black men ages 18-25. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Positive Impact, 139 Ralph McGill Blvd., 3rd Floor. 404-870-7746, kevin.bynes@aidatlanta.org
TEEN GROUP. Gays ages 13-17. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org
YOUNG ADULT GROUP. Gays ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org
YOUNG MEN'S GROUP. Drop-in life issues discussion group for gay black men ages 18-30. 6:30-8 p.m. at Positive Impact, 139 Ralph McGill Blvd., 3rd Floor. 404-870-7746
YOUTHPRIDE. Drop-in hours from 4-6:30 p.m. at YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road, Decatur. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

THURSDAY JUNE 3

CHARIS CIRCLE. "Reclaiming the Sacred: Homosexuality and Spirituality" Q&A conference with local spiritual leaders including Marsha Mitchiner of First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta and Rev. Antonio Jones of Unity Fellowship Church. 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org
GEORGIA LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS. The gay political organization welcomes guest speaker and former Congressman Bob Barr (R-Ga.) at a 7 p.m. meeting at the Georgia Tech Learning Center, 84 5th St. NE, Room 319. www.lcrga.com

ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS. Rehearsals from 7:30-10 p.m. at First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road, Suite 200. 404-320-1030, www.agmchorus.org
LAGENDER INC. Transgender/transsexual support group. 6-7:30 p.m. at Aniz Inc., 233 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644
WOMEN'S SACRED EROTIC DISCUSSION GROUP. Monthly body, mind, and spirit talk meets at 7:30 p.m. 770-713-3169.

FRIDAY JUNE 4
ONGOING EVENTS

ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND. Weekly rehearsal from 7-9 p.m. at First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. www.afmb.org
ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES. Gay men's social group meets for monthly bowling night at 8:30 p.m. at Express Bowling Lanes, 1936 Piedmont Circle NE. 404-892-7020, http://atlmenforallcultures.org
FURNITURE DONATIONS NEEDED. Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta and AID Atlanta seek used but usable furniture for HIV-positive persons. 404-355-8530, www.furniturebankatlanta.org, www.aidatlanta.org

@ To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

local life

Pedaling for charity

Gay cycling enthusiasts gathered early on May 22 to pedal some 200 miles to raise funds for the Emory Vaccine Center, an entity of Emory University that conducts clinical research for AIDS vaccines. The group, ActionCycling 200, raised some $45,000 last year. The two-day trek began Saturday at the Hope Clinic at Emory, continued to Athens and returned to Atlanta on Sunday. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

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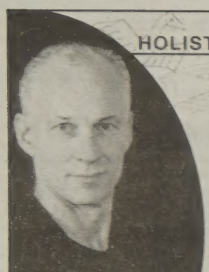

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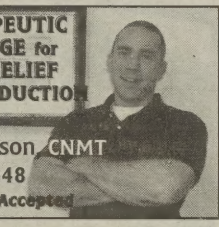

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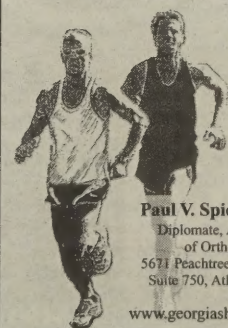

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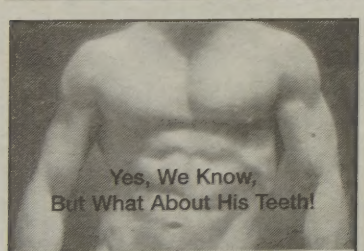

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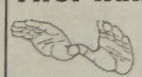

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medical report

Leader of major Calif. AIDS foundation to resign

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation plans to step down after 15 years on the job, a tenure during which she helped build the organization into one of the country's most important AIDS charities. Pat Christen said last week that she wants to spend more time with her family. "I am at a point in my life where I need to strike a balance between my work and home life," said Christen, the mother of daughters ages 5 and 10. Christen, who will leave her job July 31, joined the foundation as a telephone hotline volunteer in 1985. Later she went to work for the organization, and was named executive director in 1989. "Pat has been a very important player in HIV and AIDS locally, on the state level, nationally and even internationally," said Jimmy Loyce, director of AIDS programs for the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for 15 years, said last week she will step down this summer to spend more time with her family.

Newly married lesbian couple files Mass. lawsuit over cancer

BOSTON (AP) — One day after getting married, a lesbian couple filed a medical malpractice lawsuit asking that one of the women receive damages because doctors failed to detect breast cancer in her spouse. The lawsuit filed May 21 claims "loss of consortium" for Cindy Kalish, 39, because of the advanced breast cancer in new wife Michelle Charron, 44. Loss of consortium is a legal claim long available to spouses, but only newly available to gay couples since the state began allowing same-sex marriage Monday. The lawsuit provides a glimpse into the kinds of legal battles involving gay unions that Massachusetts courts can now expect. "I think there will be tons and tons of incidental issues, and this apparently is the first one," said Boston lawyer Steven Schreckinger. Charron and Kalish were seventh in line May 17 to apply for a wedding license, and were married May 20.

AIDS med price hike shows battle over gov't funding of drug research

NEW YORK (AP) — Abbott Laboratories' decision to quadruple the price of its AIDS drug Norvir has the government thinking about an unprecedented action — allowing other companies to make the medicine that was discovered in part with federal help. Under certain circumstances, federal law permits the government to "march in" and grant licenses for other companies to make the products it helped fund. The government has never before invoked its march-in rights to a privately patented drug, but planned a public hearing on Norvir this week. Consumers were outraged when Norvir's price catapulted 400 percent late last year to $8.57 a day from $1.71. The price hike intensified a years-long debate over whether Americans get a fair return from a system where they pay the world's highest prices for drugs even though their tax dollars help fund the research that creates the medicines. Activists fear that if Norvir's price increase stands, it will set a precedent that other companies will follow, driving drug costs even higher at a time when millions can't afford their prescription medicines.

Ind. agency that helps AIDS patients may close after state pulls funding

RICHMOND, Ind. (AP) — An agency that provides services to AIDS patients in 10 Indiana counties could close its doors in June because state health officials have decided not to renew a $90,000 grant for patient care. Officials with the Indiana State Department of Health said they pulled the funding for the AIDS Task Force of Southeast Central Indiana because they had lost confidence in its ability to serve its 67 clients. The Richmond Police Department had been investigating allegations of possible theft or mismanagement of task force funds, but Detective Sgt. Brad Berner said last week the investigation was ended because detectives found nothing criminal. Task force officials are still stunned by news that state health officials will discontinue a $90,000 grant for care coordination and a $142,500 grant for counseling, testing and education. With those grants, which total $232,500, the Richmond-based agency lacks more than two-thirds of its annual budget of about $300,000.

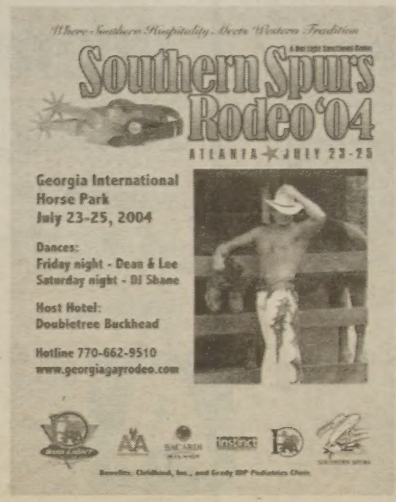
Texas study on club drugs links use with 'perverted' sex

AUSTIN, Texas — A new study found that overall use of many recreational drugs is down across the nation, but also linked such use with "perverted sexual practices," according to a news release from the groups that requested the survey. The focus of the study was "club drugs," a category of manufactured or so-called "designer drugs" used in urban nightlife, including the gay community, the groups said in the release. The study was commissioned by the University of Texas at Austin, Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the Center for Excellence in Drug Epidemiology, the release stated. Written by J.C. Maxewell, the study showed that patterns of use have increased in some urban and rural areas among some social and ethnic groups, according to the news release. The statement to the media also noted, "Whereas most drug users have irregular, promiscuous or perverted sexual practices, the effects associated with the use of club drug combinations goes hand in hand with such behavior."

From staff and wire reports

Georgia Gay Rodeo Association (GGRA)

Southern Spurs Rodeo 2004



July 23 through 25, 2004
Georgia International Horse Park
Conyers, Georgia
Host Hotel: Doubletree Buckhead

Upcoming Events That Support Southern Spurs Rodeo 2004

Indoor Playday
Saturday, June 12, 5 to 9 p.m., Hoedowns

Mr./Ms. Bud Light Contest
Saturday, June 19, 8 to 10 p.m., Val's (Tucker's only gay bar)

For more information about GGRA, its events, or the rodeo, visit the GGRA website at www.georgiagayrodeo.com or call the GGRA hotline at 770.662.9510.

American Airlines instinct

GGRA BUD LIGHT Rodeo

Beneficiaries of Southern Spurs Rodeo 2004 are Childkind, Inc. and Grady IDP Pediatrics Clinic.

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editorial

Overcoming the enemy within

From **closeted gay Republicans** to black men on the 'DL' to gay anchors at Fox News Network, far too many of us are living a lie during this critical time for gay visibility.

By KEVIN NAFF

AS WE AND OUR ALLIES bemoan attacks on gay rights from Lou Sheldon, Marilyn Musgrave, Antonin Scalia and others on the far right, a more frustrating enemy lurks among us.

Closeted gays — from gay Republicans working for virulently anti-gay public officials, to black men on the "down low," to gay TV anchors at Fox News — are doing more damage to the interests of their fellow gays than any right-wing bogeyman.

Gay rights activists have rightly said that the greatest untapped resource in the fight for full equality lies in the millions of us who remain closeted. Imagine if all those closeted gays came rushing out — professional athletes, corporate executives, politicians, movie stars, parents, siblings and children.

Not only should gay people come out, those of us who are already living an honest, open existence should let our presence be known to family, friends and colleagues.

In this election year, it is not enough to merely be out. We must remind our loved ones that President Bush seeks to enshrine anti-gay discrimination in the nation's founding document. Bush would like to amend the Constitution to deprive rights to a large segment of society.

No attack could be more personal, repugnant or lacking in compassion.

IN THE MIDST OF THIS GRAVE FIGHT against the Federal Marriage Amendment, too many gays are checking their identity at the door.

Christopher Barron, political director of the Log Cabin Republicans, recently told the New York Times, "The perception outside the Beltway would be that if there are gay staff members, they must work on Barney Frank's or Teddy Kennedy's staff. The reality is there are gay men and women working in tons of Republican offices, in the White House and in the president's re-election campaign."

If there are closeted gay men and lesbians working at the highest levels of Bush's re-election campaign, they should come out and face the music or else face the likelihood that someone else will make that decision for them.

We are not a homogenous lot and there will certainly be those of us who will vote for Bush, despite the FMA. But let them make that case in person. Face those of us who made the difficult but affirming decision to live openly and honestly and explain why we should vote for George W. Bush.

But closeted gay Republicans aren't the only ones guilty of selling out their own community.

Take the much-publicized plight of black men living on the "down low": men involved in relationships with women who like to have sex with other men but don't "identify" as gay. I could tell people that I don't "identify" as white, but that wouldn't change the color of my skin.

These black men are much en vogue these days, commanding ink from the New York Times, and even air time with Oprah Winfrey, who isn't known for devoting much attention to gay rights issues on her popular, self-obsessed show. She recently featured author J.L. King, who said, "You're not going to find me in a gay club because I have nothing to do with that culture. That's them."

King, who is black, wrote a book titled, "On the Down Low." Instead of going to gay bars, he prefers to meet closeted men in grocery stores and churches, much to the shock of Oprah's enraptured audience of naïve, pampered, upper middle class women.

I met my partner of nearly seven years at the Hippo nightclub in Baltimore. We didn't cruise the produce aisle or sneak off to a public toilet. We met, chatted and exchanged phone numbers, then scheduled a date. King, and others like him living such blatantly dishonest lives, should try "that culture." They might be surprised.

Black men on the "DL" aren't carving out some cool new subculture to which anyone should aspire. They are lying to themselves, and more tragically, to the African-American women they're infecting with HIV at alarming rates. And African Americans as a whole, particularly black ministers, needs to accept some responsibility for pushing these men into a dangerous existence in the closet.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF WHITE MEN living their own version of the DL.

On a recent trip to New York, I visited a gay bar on the Upper East Side, where I met a familiar-looking man wearing an expensive suit and excessive makeup. After a drink or two, I realized that he was one of the star anchors at Fox News Network, that tool of the conservative right masquerading as a "fair and balanced" news operation.

He wouldn't admit his identity, only that he "worked for News Corporation," the parent company of Fox, so I played dumb and let him buy another round of martinis. At 3 a.m. and after more than a few drinks, the closeted Fox star could barely balance on his bar stool.

His solicitations for a date became more intense and desperate. So I told him I was not single and, "not interested dating anyone in closet," and left him wobbling on his stool.

The stakes are too great this year for any of us — Democrat, Republican, black, white, famous or infamous — to hide in the closet and grant Bush another four years to pander to his fundamentalist Christian, anti-gay base.

Payback for a Bush victory in 2004 will come from our collective hides: more anti-gay legislation and rhetoric, more bigoted judicial nominees, and undoubtedly one or two (or more) Supreme Court picks. Anyone living in the closet will deserve a small piece of the blame if Bush is re-elected.

@ **Kevin Naff** is managing editor of the Washington Blade, a paper affiliated with this publication. He can be reached at **knaff@washblade.com.**

letters

Will gay couples pass the marriage test?

To the Editors:

As of May 17, Massachusetts became the first state to legally allow same-sex marriage. The persistence and patience of gay activists has paid off. In Massachusetts, at least, we are now equal with heterosexuals.

Now gay couples can expect to get all the benefits of marriage, including divorce. But are our relationships strong enough to uphold the sanctity of marriage, true sanctity, until death do them part?

That will be the real test. Are our couples steadfast enough to prove the heterosexual population wrong when they suggest there's no such thing as sanctity in gay relationships? Or, that the institution of marriage is out of the reach of gay couples? I hope so.

Some heterosexuals unhappy with gay marriage feel as if we have torn the moral thread from the tightly woven fabric that they have been so careless with. They have taken such good care of the institution of marriage, with their two or three ex-wives or ex-husbands, and the deadbeat dads, and run-away moms and the like, that it is no wonder they're looking for someone to blame.

I, for one, am indifferent to their plight. I am a gay man who was married for seven years until death did us part. He was a wonderful man and left me accidentally in 1991.

I am indifferent to the institution, be it straight, gay, or unspecified because I don't know if we can be responsible with this most precious gem that has become defiled by those who claim it will devastate their ways of life and crush the world in hedonism.

RICK PAULEY
Atlanta

What would Bush, Kerry say to Rosa Parks?

To the Editors:

What a sight: President Bush and Democratic hopeful John Kerry both in Kansas, looking very presidential in navy blue blazers, both saying the politically correct things to mark the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. That 1954 ruling banned segregation in schools and also made clear that "separate is not equal."

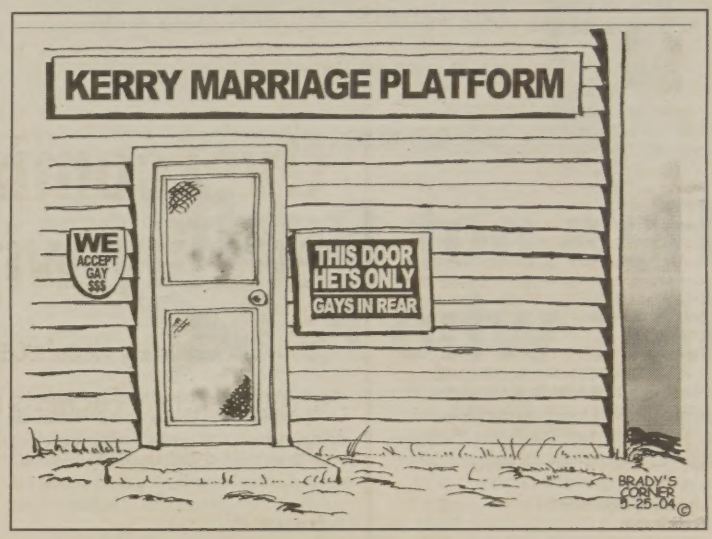
In Massachusetts that very day, marriage licenses were being issued to gay couples. President Bush has gone on record stating he will support an amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. John Kerry has stated that he defines marriage the same way but supports some sort of legal recognition for same sex couples.

Brown vs. Board was followed one year later by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., public bus. Imagine if our current leadership used today's response to same sex marriage in the Rosa Parks case.

George Bush would say, "Miss Parks, you don't need to sit in the front of the bus. That's my belief and that's the way it's always been. At least you get to ride."

John Kerry's position, based on his advisors, would be more liberal: "Miss Parks, we can't let you enter through the front door, but we'll let you sit closer to the front once you're in. After all you get all the riding benefits, except for some, and well, you were born in America, and you do pay taxes."

F. DANIEL GLEASON
Savannah, Ga.



The Fab Five vs. John Ashcroft

To the Editors:

Some of our elected officials say they want to protect the sanctity of marriage. Sanctity — the sacred — is not within the legitimate scope of the government.

What part of "make no laws regarding an establishment of religion" do they not understand? It is illegal for the government to regulate the sacred. One person's sanctity is another person's blasphemy.

How long before what someone else thinks is sacred conflicts with your idea of the sacred? The sanctity of marriage under God should be left up to individual houses of worships.

How dare anyone suggest that "the people" have a right to vote on the rights of another group of people? Majority rule isn't American democracy. Majority rule is mob rule.

The judiciary is supposed to protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority. It is precisely the job of the court to protect minorities and unpopular groups of people from being persecuted.

This issue has very little to do with gay people, sanctity, God or even marriage. This is about preserving the Constitution of the United States.

It truly bothers me that there are those out there who hate gay people more than they love the Constitution, who are more afraid of who gay people marry than of what a government unshackled from the Equal Protection Clause might do to them.

Who is more afraid of the Fab Five than they are of John Ashcroft?

REV. IAN BRUMBERGER
Brockton, Mass.

THE Q

Questions about what's going on in **your** world

Interviews and photos by Van Gower

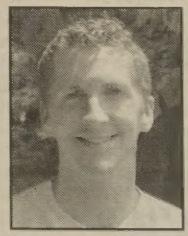
Do you have any gay plans for Memorial Day Weekend?

'I plan on going to a friend's lake house for the weekend. Up to Lake Lanier, probably to the gay cove.'

Kevin Dyke, 37
Downtown

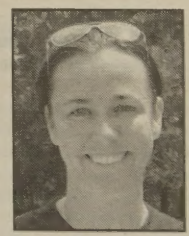
'I'm going to Pensacola Beach. Parties on the beach. I'm not sure what it is, but I know there's something.'

Todd Hoxit, 34
Downtown



'I'm just going to hang out with friends and just have a day off, and enjoy the time off.'

Brian Wallenberg, 26
Decatur

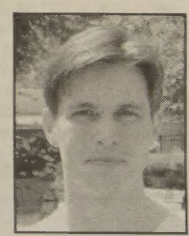


'We were going to go to Key West, but we've heard so many talk about Pensacola that we decided it would probably be a better opportunity for us. ... So we're going to leave Thursday night, get down there early and see what we can stir up.'

Kate Tritley, 30
Midtown

'[I'm] going to Nashville ... and go around and see the gay scene.'

Greg George, 36
Marietta



'I am staying in town, and I am going to watch my friend's house. He has a pool and a sauna — in the hot tub with my boyfriend all alone with no bathing suits.'

Chad Henson, 26
Midtown

viewpoint KEN SAIN

Gay activists claim **John Kerry** is the best presidential candidate ever, but **only one issue** really matters.

He's not Bush but who is he?

THE WALLS OF MY OFFICE WERE STILL spinning after I hung up the phone last week. I had just sat through a 40-minute teleconference staged by the presidential campaign of Sen. John Kerry.

The call reminded me of a 45 r.p.m. Abba record: All that spinning, fabulous as it may be, and yet no substance.

The conference was hastily arranged to inform gay media about a meeting between the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and about 30 gay activists. The media were not invited to attend. Four activists who did attend were on the conference to tell us about it. But two of them work for the Kerry campaign.

What did they come away with?

"John Kerry is the best presidential candidate ever on our issues," said one.

"John Kerry is the best presidential candidate ever on our issues," echoed another.

In fact, I think all four made that statement during the call. You can sum up the point of the teleconference in four words: Kerry good, Bush bad.

BUT IS KERRY REALLY THAT GAY friendly? True, he did vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, a member of a very lonely club on Capitol Hill. But, he said he voted against it because he thought the process had turned into gay bashing, not based on the merits of the bill.

He has said over and over that he is against gay marriage. The activists he met with said he reiterated that position. But Kerry has said that he supports civil unions and would support extending federal benefits to accompany that recognition.

But what has Kerry actually done toward providing federal benefits to same-sex couples stuck in the separate and unequal civil unions? He's done nothing.

OK, that's unfair. He's let others do something and then he has signed on after the fact. He is a co-sponsor of the Permanent Partner Immigration Act. He is a co-sponsor of the Domestic Partners Benefits & Obligations Act.

The House's Family & Medical Leave Inclusion Act is looking for a sponsor in the Senate. No doubt, Kerry will wait for someone else to step forward and sign on later.

Six senators are listed as lead sponsors of the Domestic Partner Health Benefits Equity Act. Two are Republicans. None are named Kerry. In fact, according to the Human Rights Campaign Web site, Kerry isn't even a co-sponsor on this bill.

If Kerry is going to campaign on his opposition to gay marriage but claim that gay couples deserve all the federal rights of marriage in civil unions, then he should do more in the Senate to provide those rights.

The activists on the teleconference point out that with the Republicans in charge of the Senate, even the gay rights bills that Kerry signed on to support will never be voted on.

WAIT A MINUTE. DEMOCRATS WERE in charge of the Senate during 2002. Why wasn't something done then?

If gay-friendly Democrats can't push through a relatively non-controversial bill like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act when they control the Senate, how does Kerry plan to grant gay couples all the rights of marriage with their civil unions during our lifetimes?

Don't hold your breath. In fact, it would be easier to get gay marriage approved in the Senate in one bill than it will be to get 1,138 separate bills passed to give gays the rights and benefits of marriage.

Kerry has a good gay rights record as a member of Congress. He says all the right things (except on marriage), and when given a chance, he votes in favor of treating gay Americans like everyone else. But, the four activists did offer one other reason gay men and lesbians should vote for Kerry.

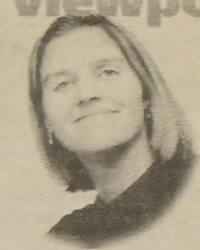
He's not Bush. So far, that has been the theme to Kerry's campaign.

Kerry believes in a separate and unequal system of recognizing gay families and pays little more than lip service to actually making those relationships equal in Congress, where he is empowered to do something about it.

The room has stopped spinning, and I can see clearly now. The only problem is, the greater of the two evils in this case is so terrible, the lesser still looks pretty good.

Ken Sain is news editor of the Washington Blade and can be reached at ksain@washblade.com.

viewpoint JENNIFER VANASCO



Conservatives reacted to abuse at Abu Ghraib by seeing 'homosexual acts' as the ultimate **form of humiliation.**

The fear behind Iraqi prison abuse

AMERICAN SOLDIERS FORCED IMPRISoned Iraqis to "simulate homosexual acts."

That's according to the Associated Press, which publishes its articles in newspapers around the world.

And the fact that AP called these acts "homosexual" shouldn't matter, right? Semantics can hardly be important when the hard fact is that U.S. soldiers and mercenaries did indeed torture and sexually humiliate Iraqis in a way that defies not only the Geneva Convention, but moral dignity. These acts were wrong, and we should investigate them and root out all those in the chain of command who had responsibility.

And yet, it is important. Because it illuminates a small, dark corner of the American psyche, making it sharp and clear and disturbing as a photograph.

Rape of women by men is never referred to as a "forced heterosexual act." It's called rape. Just as these acts to torture Iraqis should be called "sexual humiliation."

But the Associated Press isn't the only place where you'll find this kind of torture called "homosexual." You'll find it in conservative rants all over the Web.

Clearly, a segment of America — hopefully confined to the conservative "red states" that went for George W. Bush, but you never know — thinks that this sort of thing is standard for gay sex.

They seem to think, in fact, that sexual humiliation is gay sex, and that gay sex is sexual humiliation.

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO THESE PEOPLE that a woman, Army Pvt. Lynndie England, plays a prominent role in several of the photographs. She holds one Iraqi by a leash, which apparently makes her sexuality "queer" because it suggests S&M, and makes her, by some strange logic, aligned with the gay people.

Elaine Donnelly, a conservative activist, told the New York Times that this "cultural deterioration" among soldiers is a direct effect of allowing women to serve in the military and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a "trend" she is trying to reverse.

But this has nothing to do with women or gays serving in the military. If anything, all it shows about these additions to the armed forces is that our Victorian idea that women are a civilizing influence on men is clearly wrong.

Still, we can wonder if England or other women would have stood by to watch men simulating the rape of women. There must be some corner of her brain that would be repulsed by that.

We can also wonder if gay men were able to be open in the military, and if they were present at the prison, whether they would have stood by while Iraqi men were forced to sodomize each other and simulate oral sex.

After all, for gay men, sodomy and oral sex are natural, healthy parts of sexuality. Perhaps they would understand better than anyone else where the moral line is crossed.

BUT THE CONSERVATIVE REACTION TO these "homosexual acts" appears to be that forced sex and humiliation are the standard ways gays have sex. No wonder we scare them. No wonder they don't want us in the military or in locker rooms.

Sodomy is how some straight male bullies humiliate and control other men, just like they use rape to humiliate and control women.

The horror at Abu Ghraib is not the only example. Another occured when male New York cops sodomized Haitian immigrant Abner Louima not because they were attracted to him, but because they wanted to show that they were in control.

If conservatives think gay male sex is only about sexual humiliation, then they must be very worried that we want to humiliate them. Because isn't that what all oppressed minorities want? To not only dismantle the master's house, but bring him down to their level?

But that, of course, is not what we want. What we want is much more benign — equality. The ability to go about our lives without fearing for them. The chance to live next door without harassment or hassle. The right to speak up without being put down.

Maybe we need to address this almost-unspoken fear directly. Maybe we should make clear that we don't want to sexually humiliate.

We want to unseat their president, sure. We want to overturn their biased laws, absolutely. We want to live next door to them and work alongside them and eat at the next table.

But we don't want to rape them or make them simulate sex acts. That's just not what being gay is about.

Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at vanasco@chicagofreepress.com.

viewpoint MARK KING

'You ruined me, you arrogant asshole.'

I'm stunned by **my own vindictiveness**.

'You said not to worry. You make me sick.'

Coming to grips with crystal meth

THE SMALL MEETING HALL IS FULL, almost all men, and the general anxiety level approaches something between last call and the bar lights coming on. The metal chairs were apparently designed to keep your mind awake and your ass asleep.

I've probably slept with someone in this room.

Or worse.

Note to self: You might be an addict if you can't decide if his arms look familiar from the gym, or from shoving a syringe in one of them at some point — you know, just as a favor.

It isn't my first meeting, but it might as well be. No one has heard the sound of my voice, since "sharing" would involve actually addressing this pack of burned out losers. Their troubles stem from being sloppy and reckless. It's obvious from their stories, and it's totally unlike me. I drive a nice car and have great hair.

Someone is explaining how important it is to identify our genuine feelings. OK, let's see.

I spent 20 minutes choosing the right tank top to wear to this freak fest and now I'm feeling pissed that no one has cruised me. There are my "genuine feelings."

Still, "sharing" might just turn out to be good self-marketing, and help me get noticed if I care to chat up somebody afterward. I begin a mental scan of my drug-related dramas, considering something to spill.

Like calling up funny stories at the family picnic, but with crystal meth and paramedics involved.

MY EX-BOYFRIEND ONCE FELL FROM the sling and cracked his head, but I got that secondhand since I was partying in the next room and was too busy to check on him. That might rate some gasps or maybe even sympathy.

Or then there's the guy — names are a luxury a tina queen cannot afford — who liked paying me with drugs to have sex with him. That might do the trick.

I wonder if barebacking is provocative enough. Probably not, I wager. Not anymore.

My mind wanders off to a recurring dream, and I follow it with trepidation. I'm digging up the ground with my bare hands.

Mounds of dirt grow enormous beside me, and I work feverishly, scooping one handful after another. I know exactly what I'm unearthing.

I find my buried treasure just as I left it. Carefully I wipe the dirt from an exposed limb, an arm, and then with more work the body reveals itself. I brush everything away from the face, my previous face. It is without tension or guilt, as opposed to the destruction evident in mine now.

I want to hold the body and weep.

"You ruined me, you arrogant asshole," it calls out to me suddenly. I'm stunned by the words and the vindictiveness in the voice. My voice. "You told me not to worry. You said you could handle it!" I can't speak. "You make me *sick*."

The eyes are wide and the face is damp with tears. It spits the words. I can feel flecks of mud splattering me. "I trusted you and you made me a whore, Mark."

I SCRAMBLE BACKWARDS TO GET away, grabbing fistfuls of dirt and throwing them back on the body, covering, covering. It does little to muffle what is now screaming, half buried, furious and mournful.

"Do you remember your self respect, Mark Steven King?"

"You destroyed it, all of it! Is the AIDS activist now a loathsome drug addict?"

"Please let me answer for the two of us, OK? *Yes*!"

My head lurches up from my private torment, and my hand is raised. In the front of the meeting someone is pointing to me, nodding, smiling helpfully.

I scan the room, and my eyes are filled with resentment for everyone there and for the very existence of this place. I hate them all.

My gaze is returned with comfortable but curious glances, as if they see something peculiar they recognize. "There you are," they seem to be saying. "We saved that seat for you."

I lower my hand and briefly touch my face, as if brushing something away, and then I begin to speak.

ON THE WEB
www.CrystalMethAnonymous.info

Mark King is a longtime AIDS activist living in Fort Lauderdale; he can be reached at **marksking@aol.com**.

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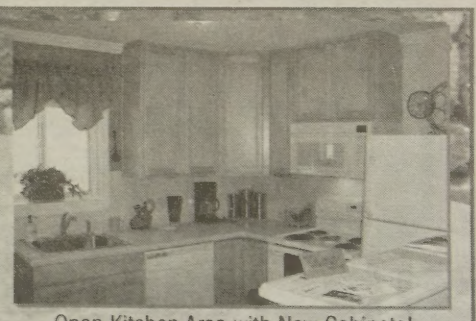

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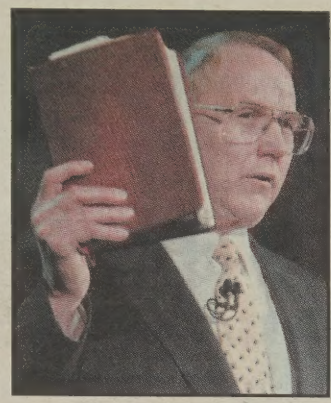

"Barring a miracle, the family as it has been known for more than five millennia will crumble."

*Rev. **James Dobson** of the conservative Focus on the Family, on gay couples marrying in Massachusetts (Washington Post, May 20)*

"Like mile-markers in time, certain calendar dates stand in memory as not only historic, but momentous. Dates like Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 11, 2001 represent far more than mere days on a calendar. Now, May 17, 2004 must be added to that list. ... This is a day that will live in moral infamy."

Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, on Massachusetts marrying gay couples (www.crosswalk.com, May 17)

"[George W. Bush] has appointed more open homosexuals to high office than Bill Clinton ever did. He has promoted the homosexual agenda. ... He has come out on the surface saying he's against homosexual marriages, same-sex marriages, but on the other hand, he hasn't really done anything to stop them."

James Clymer, chair of the Constitution Party in Utah, criticizing the president for being too liberal in the "culture wars" (Associated Press, May 23)

"Here is John Kerry's exact position on gay marriage: Kerry thinks it's OK for two women to get married as long as one is really rich."

Talk-show host Craig Kilborn from CBS' "Late Late Show" (Associated Press, May 18)

"When 'homosexual' comes up, people are hesitant. It's not easy table talk. And heterosexual men don't like to discuss it. They have to be on guard. They know these men are predators."

*Rev. **Lou Sheldon**, 70, head of the Traditional Values Coalition, on his group's fight against gay rights (Washington Post, May 20)*

"You know what that means. Group sex. Just sex, sex, sex."

Lou Sheldon, referring to an ad in the Washington Blade, a gay publication he said he never misses picking up, in which a group "meets frequently to socialize" with "refreshments, music and videos" (Washington Post, May 20)

"It's been raining a lot and the topsoil is loose. You know this president. He likes to go all out. Suffice it to say he wasn't whistling show tunes."

White House spokesman Trent Duffy on the fall President Bush took last weekend while riding a bike at his ranch in Crawford, Texas (Associated Press, May 23)

"Marriage is not about adult desires for affirmation and benefits, it is about the well-being of children. Two men being intimate are simply not the same as a husband and a wife, and alternative family forms are not just as good as traditional families."

Conservative Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, who after months of indecision last week endorsed the Federal Marriage Amendment (Deseret News, Salt Lake City, May 22)

"I'm a comedian. I want to make people laugh. I want to make people feel good. ... Somehow, I was viewed as political when I just want to be a comedian."

*Actress turned talk-show host **Ellen DeGeneres**, on the success of her daytime talk show, which last week won the Emmy for best talk show; DeGeneres does not discuss being gay on the program (Associated Press, May 22)*

"In daytime, the audience doesn't want to be preached at by anybody. They don't want Oprah preaching spirituality or Rosie preaching politics or Ellen preaching lifestyle."

Jim Paratore, president of Warner Brothers' Telepictures Productions, which produces "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" (Associated Press, May 22)

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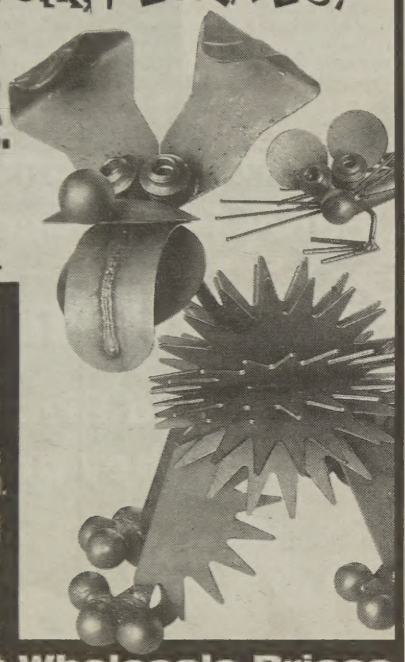

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sound off!

Editors' note: The following comments about the gay issues of the day or stories published in Southern Voice were made by readers online at **www.sovo.com** or by telephone at **1-800-485-6907.**

The Issue: "Backstreet, Blü dance to different beats" (news, May 21)

Peggy Denby, the neighborhood activist who complained about Backstreet, lives in my condo and probably should not be living in the city. Her viewpoint does not reflect the viewpoint of most people in the area. Midtown is a young and vibrant community not suited for her type. She needs to move to a gated retirement community.

Your article failed to mention that besides being a Midtown resident, Peggy Denby is president of the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance and as such may not be the most unbiased person to address the future of Backstreet Atlanta.

The Issue: Gay Day at Dollywood met by protests (news, May 7)

I am delighted to see that the hate-mongering status quo is being challenged in Tennessee in such a positive, non-threatening fashion. Interestingly, the simple act of gays gathering in one place is enough to throw the opposition into a tizzy. The more they react, the more they prove their un-Christian-like bigotry.

The Issue: "Marriage ballot too crucial to sit out" (op-ed by Allen Thornell, May 21)

If this issue is so important to Mr. Thornell, why did he leave Georgia Equality during the battle?

The Issue: "Gay couples behind Mass. lawsuit finally wed" (news, May 21)

How the hell does this devalue the institution of marriage? In becoming less discriminatory, the concept of marriage has now become all the more meaningful. Any right-wing bigot who still finds something wrong with gays marrying will have to account before God for the level of hate in their heart — lawmakers and presidents not excluded.

Why can't we get married without making such a spectacle out of it? The more mass "moonie-like" weddings we have, we provide more fodder for the right-wingers.

The Issue: "On the right side of history" (editorial by Chris Crain, May 21)

This editorial comparing Brown vs. Board 50 years ago with the court decision that allowed same-sex marriages the same day 50 years later is perfect. In 50 years, or less, most Americans will be saying how just the marriage decision was. Of course there are still racists, just as there will still be people who are intolerant toward gays, sadly, even 50 years from now. If religious people 50 years from now are still as bigoted and ignorant, their religions may not be around. But we will be!

Great editorial. And just as was true with the abolition of slavery, the true followers of Christ are opposed to the pseudo-Christians who use the Bible to soothe their conscience over oppressing others unjustly.

The Issue: John Kerry (news, May 21)

The greatest presidential candidate ever? An inflated claim. But he is definitely not George W. Bush, and Bush is definitely no friend. That's one big vote for Kerry right there. There is no ideal presidential candidate. The best we can do is elect someone we feel represents us, or at least does not harm us, and hope for the best. The reality is we can't know until we try. We've tried Bush; nothing worth repeating there.

John Kerry says he is "committed to using the power of the White House to advance equal rights for all Americans, including gay Americans." Yet Kerry is against recognizing the right of gay and lesbians couples to marry. Is he an idiot or does he think we are?

Bush bashing is certainly an effective fund-raising strategy for HRC. Few gay men and women would argue that his efforts to constitutionalize Bill Clinton's DOMA legacy are at least misguided and at worst unforgiveable. But HRC plays political sleight of hand when it fails to mention John Kerry's equally misguided support for a state constitutional amendment to roll back marriage rights in Massachusetts. Gay men and women will never get a seat at the table as long as our lobbying organizations fritter away our voting and economic power in exchange for half-hearted pats on the head and table scraps. I for one am tired of getting kicked under the table.

action! alert

Video gets a nasty edit

Lesbian scenes missing from Janet's new video

By BRYAN ANDERTON

The video clip for Janet Jackson's newest single, "All Nite (Don't Stop)" is certainly provocative. Throughout the music video, Jackson and her dancers get hot and heavy with one another to the song's thumping, infectious beat.

But astute fans who have seen the original video have noticed that it's not the same version being played on music channels like VH1 and BET. (MTV is set to debut Jackson's video next week, according to the Virgin Records Web site.) The last one-third of the clip has been edited to eliminate a same-sex kiss between two female dancers.

In the original version, the two women writhe around on top of one another for a few seconds while Jackson watches from a nearby couch. After a few seconds, the camera catches the two women in a close-up lip lock.

In the version appearing on the major music networks, however, the two women — and their kiss — have been completely cut out. Instead, the image has been cropped so that viewers only see Jackson on the couch.

Fans first noted the discrepancy when the original version of the video was posted on fan Web sites like www.janetmultimedia.com.

Representatives from Virgin Records, Jackson's record label, did not return repeated phone calls inquiring about the nature of the cuts and why they were made. Similar calls to MTV and VH1 also were not returned.

A spokesperson for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said the group was "concerned" about a possible double standard.

"I think it's always a concern when the gay and lesbian community is not allowed to be depicted in the same way that the straight community is, and especially when that revolves around the way our relationships and romantic situations are depicted," said Stephen Macias, GLAAD's entertainment media director.

The original version of **Janet Jackson**'s latest music video, for the song 'All Nite (Don't Stop),' featured lesbian groping and kissing. The lesbian scenes were edited out for broadcast on music networks, including VH1.

He said he had called MTV to ask why the clip had been edited, but had not received an answer as of press time.

Macias said MTV and VH1 were both known to be gay-friendly networks that "from the beginning have been pioneers in the areas around LGBT representation." He also said that, in addition to having many gay fans, Jackson often supports gay causes, and recently attended a Human Rights Campaign dinner in Los Angeles in March.

Janet's anti-gay past

Jackson was criticized by some gays in 2002 for recording a duet with Beenie Man, a Jamaican rapper who advocated killing gays in some of his previous songs.

Some have speculated that the "All Nite" video would not have been edited if not for Jackson's infamous Super Bowl performance, in which her right breast was revealed.

Since that halftime show, the Federal Communications Commission has scrutinized the TV and radio airwaves in a crackdown on indecency. Radio has been perhaps the biggest target, as the FCC has leveled immense fines — ranging from $27,500 to a record $755,000 — against broadcasters who air bawdy talk shows by "shock jocks" like Howard Stern. Clear Channel removed Stern's show from six of its affiliates after an FCC fine.

A number of networks and broadcasters have gone to a heightened state of self-censorship since the uproar over Jackson's Super Bowl performance, for fear of being fined.

Shortly after the breast-baring incident, NBC re-edited an episode of its popular show "ER" to remove a shot in which an elderly patient's breast was exposed.

ACTION! INFO

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The skinny on cocktails

Beverage industry latches onto diet craze with low-carb beers, spirits.

Page 37

Click here to become an activist

'Gay rights' ranks high among hot topics on MeetUp.com as amendment fights heat up

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

THEY SHOWED UP FOR VARIOUS PERSONAL REASONS, but their guiding purpose was the same. On April 27, for the first time, 11 strangers met at Smith's Olde Bar in Midtown to discuss strategies against proposed anti-gay marriage amendments to the federal and state constitutions.

"I just think it's time at the grassroots level to do whatever we can," says Michael Martin, the volunteer host of the meeting.

The gathering was one of more than 150 gay rights meetings — including one at Eddie's Attic in Decatur — that simultaneously united more than 2,000 people across the U.S. last month for the same purpose.

But without Meetup.com, the Web site made popular by Howard Dean's campaign for president, last month's nationwide networking would not have occurred — an indicator that the Internet is jumpstarting grassroots gay activism.

Meetup.com allows users to select a topic of interest and find like-minded individuals in their immediate geographical vicinity to vote on a specific location where they can meet for discussion.

"All of the sudden, you are connected to people all over the place who feel the same way, and you start to realize there is more power in one than I think we ever thought before," Martin says.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, THE LARGEST gay civil rights organization in the U.S., partnered with Meetup.com to organize the sessions last month. HRC plans to hold similar meet-ups around the country on the fourth Tuesday of every month, according to Seth Kilbourn, HRC's national field director.

"This is kind of a new territory for HRC and for all of the organizations using online tools to motivate people politically," Kilbourn says. "It is a challenge to get people to actually take real, live political action, but in this campaign year with so much at stake, we're hoping that we'll be able to use Meetup as a tool to plug people in."

At the HRC meet-up in April, attendees passed around congressional maps to learn who their representatives are and were encouraged to send letters to members of Congress and brainstorm for ideas on local activism.

Becky Chandler, 51, who attended the Smith's Olde Bar event, received a mass form e-mail from HRC encouraging her to sign up.

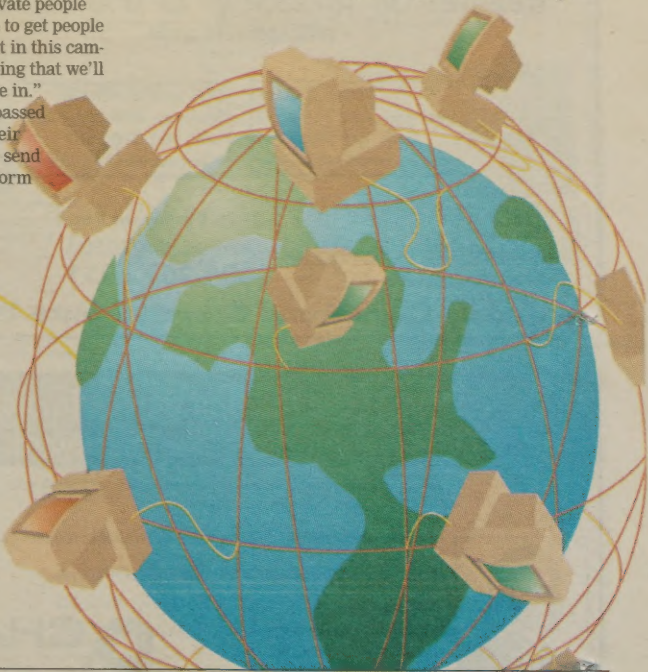
In the past, Chandler steered clear of politics. But that was before the Georgia General Assembly and some federal officials began threatening her and her partner's civil liberties, she says.

Had it not been for the speed and ease of clicking her computer mouse during a break at work, Chandler probably would not have met face-to-face with other like-minded Atlanta residents, she says.

"Somebody at work told me about it," Chandler says. "I received an e-mail, and then I went on the Web site. It allowed you to interact automatically and to find out information right away as opposed to maybe having to make a phone call and get it that way."

The most innovative use of Meetup.com is that it allows HRC to decentralize its approach to involving people in the political process, according to Kilbourn.

Please see GAY MEETUPS on Page 51



SEASONAL FARE: Forget summer blockbusters; gay fare with actors like **Emile Hirsch** also in movie mix. **Page 45**

DESIGNER FLARE: Five local interiors gurus open their homes to benefit gay chorus. **Page 53**

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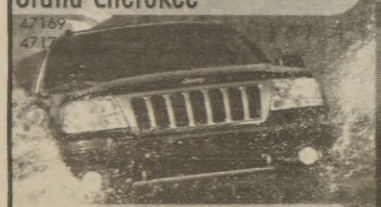

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Lesbian singer **Janis Ian** is among more than 130 scholars, authors and artists at the '**Mythic Journeys**' conference on the importance of imagination in everyday life. Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel, 265 Peachtree St. NE. 404-832-4127, www.mythicjourneys.org, www.janisian.com

THURSDAY JUNE 3

The free '**Screen on the Green**' summer film series opens with 'Young Frankenstein' and a live introduction by actress Cloris Leachman. Future weekly installments include 'The Sound of Music' and 'The Wizard of Oz.' Movies begin Thursdays at sunset on the Piedmont Park meadow, 10th Street at Monroe Drive. www.turner.com/screenonthegreen

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

nightlife calendar

FRIDAY MAY 28

Armory. 'La Femme Royale' starring Savannah Leigh, Nicole Luv Dupree, Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair, Tony Desario and Tina Devore, 11 p.m.-2 a.m. 404-881-9280.
Backstreet. Open 9 p.m.-7 a.m. Mon.-Sat. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m. 404-873-1986.
Blake's on the Park. 'Colors of Pride Celebration: Yellow' benefiting P.A.L.S. Bubba bobble head doll sale. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 6:30 p.m. Yellow drag and costume contest hosted by Ruby Redd. 404-892-5786.
Blü. Dance party. 404-877-1221.
Buddies. 'Dumpster Divas' and free cookout, 5 p.m. 404-634-5895.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop. 404-872-3025.
Burkhart's. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. 404-872-4403.
The Chaparral. Latin night, 10 p.m.-4 a.m. 404-634-3737.
Club M-Mage. R&B and hip-hop. Blackout night, doors open 10 p.m. 404-527-0085.
Club 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays. 404-874-8125.
Colours. Hip-hop and R&B night. 678-702-0872.
Felix's on the Square. Themed laid-back lounge night with David. 404-249-7899.
Heretic. 'Sweat,' 10 p.m.-4 a.m. 404-325-3061.
Jungle. Performances by Shabazz, Alexandria Martin and Raquel Lord. Doors open 9 p.m. No cover before midnight. 404-844-8800.
Le Buzz. Dancing. 770-424-1337.
Mary's. 'Danceteria,' 9 p.m. 404-624-4411.
Masquerade. 'KISS' Fridays indie and glam rock. Ages 18+. 404-577-8178.
Metro. 'Get WET with Jayne Russell' wet jockey contest, midnight. 404-874-9869.
Model T. 'Divas of Illusion,' 11 p.m. 404-872-2209.
My Sisters' Room. Weekly live music and special events. Doors open 8 p.m. 404-370-1990.
The New Order. 404-874-8247.
The Oscars Atlanta. Cocktail hour and showtunes, 5-7 p.m. Best of the Oscars, 7-9 p.m. 'Martinis, Men & Music Videos,' 9 p.m.
The Phoenix. 404-892-7871.
Swinging Richards. '2-4-1 T-Shirt Review.' 404-352-0532.
Tripps. Happy Hour, 3-9 p.m. Disco night, 9 p.m. 404-724-0067.
Val's. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. 770-938-0567.
Woofs. 404-869-9422.

SATURDAY MAY 29

Armory. 'La Femme Royale' with Tina Devore, Sophia McIntosh and Paula Sinclair, 11 p.m.-2 a.m.
Backstreet. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m.
Blake's on the Park. 'Colors of Pride Celebration: Yellow' benefiting P.A.L.S. Pet photo contest winner announced. 'Let's Make A Diva Deal!' game hosted by Jealousé, 11 p.m.
Blü. Dance party. Doors open 11 p.m.
The Breaking Point. New cabaret show and drag fights, 10:30 p.m.
Buddies. 'Gladiators of Glamour' with Peg, Regina Ryan and guests, 10 p.m.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop.
Burkhart's. Dinner menu, 5:30-9 p.m.
Club M-Mage. R&B and hip-hop. House night, doors open 10 p.m.
Club 708. Big party.
Colours. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
Felix's on the Square. Laid-back lounge night with David.
Jungle. Performances by Shabazz, Alexandria Martin and Raquel Lord. Doors open 9 p.m. No cover before midnight. 404-844-8800.
Le Buzz. 'Girlzz of LeBuzz' drag show, 11 p.m.
Masquerade. 'SIN' erotic and industrial night, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Ages 18+.
Metro. 'Las Bugambilias' with Italia Franco, Monica Botas, and Rebecca Duval, midnight.
Model T. 'Model Teez Girlz' drag show, 11 p.m.
My Sisters' Room. Dance party. Doors open 8 p.m.
The Oscars Atlanta. 'Martinis, Men & Music Videos,' 9 p.m.
Swinging Richards. '2-4-1 T-Shirt Review.'
Traxx. Hip-hop, 10 p.m. Male revue show, third floor, midnight. 404-681-4422.
Tripps. Blackout party, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Val's. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

SUNDAY MAY 30

Armory. 'Flower Power' weekly T-dance with food, drinks, entertainment and giveaways. No cover. 2-8 p.m.
Backstreet. Open 6 p.m.-7 a.m. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, midnight.
Blake's on the Park. 'Colors of Pride Celebration: Yellow' benefiting P.A.L.S. 'Fierce Puppy' attitude, costume, and talent dog show, registration 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
Buddies. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, free cookout, 6 p.m.
Bulldogs. 'SunTea' wet and wild party.
Burkhart's. Dinner menu, 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes! Infamous Camp Drag Queens of the South, 9 p.m.
The Chaparral. 'Hip-Hop Sunday,' 10 p.m.
Club 708. Social night, open until midnight.
Heretic. 'Sweat' T-dance and frozen drinks on the patio, 6 p.m.-midnight. No cover.
Hoedowns. Line-dance lessons, 5-6 p.m. Cabaret and revue, 6 p.m. 404-876-0001.
Midtown Saloon & Grill. Free dinner buffet, 5-6 p.m. 404-874-1655.
Model T. Drag show, 10 p.m.
My Sisters' Room. 'The L Word' repeat episode, 9 p.m. New episode, 10 p.m.
Red Chair. All-you-can-eat gourmet brunch buffet, free champagne and mimosas, 11:30 a.m.–3 p.m. T-dance on the patio, 4:30 p.m. 'Red Chair Revue' with Bubba D. Licious and guests, 8 p.m. 404-870-0532.

MONDAY MAY 31

Armory. Sophia McIntosh variety show, 10 p.m.
Blake's on the Park. 'Blake's Neighborhood Party' free buffet, 5-8 p.m. 'Drag Races' contest hosted by Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
The Breaking Point. APA & BCA league practice, free pool.
Buddies. Martini night. Free pool until 8 p.m.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop.
Burkhart's. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
Club 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
Colours. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
Eagle. Free pool. 404-873-2453.
Joe's on Juniper. Music trivia, 8-10 p.m. 404-875-6634.
Le Buzz. Free pool.
Metro. Industry Night, 10 p.m.
Midtown Saloon & Grill. Free pool all night.
Nickiemoto's. Dragamaki with Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and weekly guests. 8:45 p.m. 404-253-2010.
The Oscars Atlanta. Service industry night, 9 p.m. 404-874-7748.
Traxx. 'Stars of the Century' female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.
Tripps. Happy Hour, 3-9 p.m.
Val's. Trivia night.

TUESDAY JUNE 1

Armory. Drag show, 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
Blake's on the Park. Videos.
The Breaking Point. Free pool and open tournaments with cash prizes, 8 p.m.
Buddies. Karaoke with Bill and Kyle.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop.
Burkhart's. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.

'Impulse' gay night at the slick and sexy Compound is a hit with night crawlers in Atlanta's club scene. 404-872-4621. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Club 708. 'Oldies & Goodies' night, '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
Colours. Customer-appreciation night, 8 p.m.
Dragonfly. 18-and-up gay club night. Open bar 10-11 p.m. 21 to drink. 404-875-7473.
Hoedowns. Free dance lessons, 8 p.m.
Joe's on Juniper. 'Trivia Challenge,' 8-10 p.m.
Le Buzz. Karaoke featuring Alexandra Martin, 10:30 p.m.
Mary's. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
Metro. Latin House music, 10 p.m.
Miss Q's. Pool leagues. 404-875-6255.
Model T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Red Chair. Homestyle dinner and movie, 7:30 p.m.
Swinging Richards. No cover before 10 p.m.
Traxx. 'Thugged-Out Tuesday Night' hip-hop, doors open 11 p.m.
Tripps. Happy Hour, 3-9 p.m.
Val's. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2

Backstreet. 'Spotlight' talent contest hosted by Juan Cezar and Monica Van Pelt, 1 a.m.
Blake's on the Park. 'The Lust & The Bust' with Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks and Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
The Breaking Point. Karaoke jackpot for cash.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop.
Burkhart's. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
The Chaparral. 'Flamin'-Hot Wednesdays' with hot bods, go-go boys and contests.
Club M-Mage. R&B and hip-hop. Ladies' night, doors open 9 p.m.
Club 708. Open-mike night, 10 p.m. Mini-ball drag show, 2 a.m.
Colours. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
Compound. 'Impulse' gay night. Doors open 9 p.m. 404-872-4621.
Heretic. 'Boys' Night Out' dress code party, 10 p.m.
Hoedowns. Free dance lessons, 8 p.m.
Jungle. 'Chico de la Jungle' Latin night. Doors open 9 p.m.
Le Buzz. 'Girlzz of LeBuzz,' 10 p.m. Men of Menergy dancers, 11 p.m.
Metro. 'Urban Spin' R&B and Old School, 10 p.m. Maxine Blue's 'Class, Ass & Pizzazz' show with Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels, and guests, 11:30 p.m.
Midtown Saloon & Grill. Open-mike night, 8 p.m.
Miss Q's. Pool leagues.
Model T. Movie night, midnight.
My Sisters' Room. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Oscars. Comedy night, 9 p.m.
Red Chair. Ladies' night.
Swinging Richards. No cover before 10 p.m.
Tripps. Happy Hour, 3-9 p.m. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
Vision. 'Skin and Sin Wednesdays,' open bar from 10-11 p.m. 404-874-4460.
WETbar. 'Femme-tini' ladies' night with female staff and go-go girls, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY JUNE 3

Backstreet. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, midnight.
Bulldogs. Old-school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip-hop.
Burkhart's. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix with Martina Diamante, Savannah Lee and Alicia Kelly. 11:30 p.m.
Club M-Mage. R&B and hip-hop. Doors open 9 p.m.
Club 708. 'Trade Thursdays' plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
Club Rio. 'Thursday Extravaganza' gay night and drag show. No cover. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Gainesville. 770-654-3949, rio-club@charter.net
Colours. 'Bad Boy Thursday,' 8 p.m.
Eagle. Underwear party, 10 p.m.
Felix's on the Square. Laid-back lounge night with David. Karaoke, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Heretic. 'Experience Rapture' dance party, 10 p.m.
Hoedowns. Ladies' night. Free line-dance lessons, 8 p.m.
Joe's on Juniper. '80s general trivia, 8-10 p.m.
Jungle. 'Eden' lesbian dance night. Doors open 9 p.m.
Le Buzz. 'Court of Kings' drag kings, 10 p.m.
Mary's. 'Beat Surrender,' 9:30 p.m.
Masquerade. '80s night new-wave and alternative in Purgatory, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Ages 18+.
Metro. 'Latin Connection' with showmaster Alexis Troncoso, midnight.
Model T. Open-mike, 8 p.m. Drag show, 11 p.m.
My Sisters' Room. Alternating open-mike and singer-songwriter nights. Open-mike sign-ups, 7 p.m. Doors open 8 p.m.
The New Order. Open-mike night, 8 p.m.
The Oscars Atlanta. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.
Red Chair. College night: 18 to party, 21 to drink all night. Karaoke cabaret, 10 p.m.
Tripps. Happy Hour, 3-9 p.m. Ciecresha & Company male revue, 10 p.m.
WETbar. Threesome Thursdays sexy dancers and drink specials, 10 p.m.

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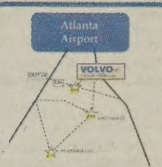

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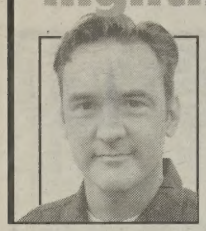


Liquor industry, Atlanta clubs make it possible to **get your cocktail on** by reducing pesky carbs and calories.

Drinking on a diet

MAYBE THE LATE DR. ATKINS IMAGined in the 1970s that his low-carbohydrate diet would sweep the country. But few could have predicted that a modified version of the "low-carb lifestyle" would become a bona fide craze more than 30 years later.

For the uninitiated, cutting carbs calls for a complete shift in eating habits. No more white stuff. Flour, sugar, potatoes and rice are no-nos. Say goodbye to bread, noodles and sugary desserts. Adults on the diet closely track carbs after a two-week induction phase that calls for just 20 grams per day.

The formula appears to work, with devotees singing the praises of diets like Atkins and South Beach. And the food industry is catching on — and trying to cash in. Sandwich shops offer low-carb wraps, burger joints pedal "Atkins friendly" salads, and national restaurant chains offer low-carb options on their menus.

Now the liquor industry is on the marketing battlefield, pushing new products with reduced carbs and calories as well as reminders that some spirits were always low in carbohydrates.

Forget that even reduced calories in alcohol are empty ones. Get your drink on without getting fat.

FOR CARB COUNTING QUEENS, SOURCES like realbeer.com and "The Complete Book of Food Counts" do the math on carbs. Regular beers contain 10 to 15 carbs per 12 ounces. But light beers fare better on carb counts as well as calories. Popular brands like Miller Lite carry 3.2 carbs, and Bud Light weighs in with 6.6 carbs.

Vodka, rum, tequila, whiskey and gin have always contained no carbohydrates. But the rub lies in popular mixers: drinks like Cosmopolitans and Whiskey Sours up the carb ante to 7.3 and 6.5 per drink, respectively.

A three-ounce Sex on Beach packs 18 carbs, and a five-ounce Margarita sets drinkers back 34 carbs. Maybe you should reconsider having a second. Don't ask about a White Russian (26).

BUT FEAR NOT, CARB-CONSCIOUS dieters. The beverage industry, with help from some Atlanta gay bars, keeps drinkers on the party train with an ever-growing crop of low-carb beers and specialty drinks.

Mixers like club soda and diet cola don't up the carb count, and recent media reports put low-carb wines on the list of available alternatives in the coming months.

For beer drinkers, most gay establishments already carry Michelob Ultra. The brand got a jump on the craze a couple of years ago by offering just 2.6 grams of carbohydrates per 12-ounce serving. Now the same count can be found in Rolling Rock's slimmer cousin Green Light and Coors' Aspen Edge.

Brian Stanton, a bartender at WETbar, shakes up cocktails using 3Vodka, a soy-based spirit with zero carbs that the venue uses in its 'No Carb-tini' and other specialty drinks. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

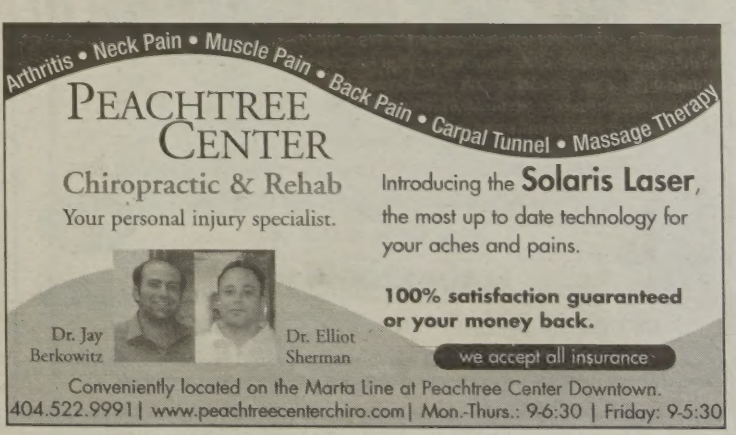
A banner outside Blake's on the Park now promotes Aspen Edge as its newest addition. Its sister lounge WETbar is pushing the soy-based 3Vodka with special prices on "3Some Thursdays."

"Everybody is searching for ways to cut carbs and drink without getting fat, so I'm all for it," says LZ Granderson, vice president and marketing and development director for ThunderFlower, which owns Blake's, WETbar and Blu.

"People have seen the commercials for low-carb drinks, and we want as many options as possible available for our patrons," he says. "It's hard to stay on a diet, so we want to help those who are worried about it by making these drinks available."

The menu at WETbar includes the "No Carb-tini," comprised of 3Vodka and olive juice. 3Vodka touts itself as a healthier alternative to traditional vodka, but keep in mind that a similar martini made with any Vodka would also be low in carbs.

Other specialty drinks on "3Some Thursdays" add carb-laden extras like orange juice, Apple Schnapps and candied cherries.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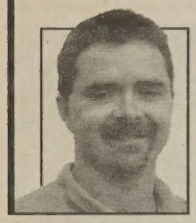

Actor in latest version of '90s Broadway smash says show's AIDS education and personal stories **still ring true** today.

'Rent' still poignant

WHEN JONATHAN LARSON'S MUSICAL "Rent" premiered in 1996, its depictions of gay men and women and young people with HIV/AIDS were controversial.

But over the years, the show has become more mainstream and less likely to shock audiences. When the road tour stops next week at the Fox Theatre, it will mark the fourth time the show has played Atlanta.

Damien Smith has been with the show the past three seasons, but it's only been in the last year that he has played Angel, the queeny, often drag-clad character that is one of the ensemble's most memorable.

Smith admits that bringing the cross-dressing, AIDS-stricken Angel to life is much more difficult than his previous role of Paul. Not the least of Smith's challenges are Angel's numbers and the character's time in drag.

"I have understudied for that character in the past, and it's a role I've always wanted to play," Smith says.

The young actor says that he saw the show during his senior year of high school and fell in love with Larson's musical.

"When I auditioned, I already knew much of Angel's music," Smith says. "I love all of the songs in the show."

And in the past eight years, Smith hasn't seen much of a dip in the popularity of "Rent," he says.

"We have this huge, wonderful fan base," Smith says.

SOME CRITICS SAY "RENT," WHICH tells the story of a bohemian artists' community in the 1990s, is becoming dated. But Smith says that the show's themes still hold meaning for today's audiences.

"So many people out there are uneducated about HIV and AIDS," Smith says. "These are people who need to be informed. We need to awaken these minds. The message in 'Rent' is still there and still important."

Moving forward, Smith says that most of the talk about "Rent" in theater circles lately centers on the upcoming film version of the show. A director, Chris Columbus, has been found, but a cast remains to be determined.

ONSTAGE ATLANTA AND ARTISTIC director Scott Rousseau are settling into their version of the Tony Award-winning gay drama "Love! Valour! Compassion."

McNally's Chekhovian story is about eight friends who gather over three weekends. For all Rousseau and company's good intentions, this version of the show is fairly mediocre, with some nice performances and a particularly strong final act.

Hurting matters most is that some of the performers just don't breathe much into their roles. Gregory, the central character, is played by Jeff Graham, who is not particularly animated.

The hodgepodge cast of bohemians in 'Rent' returns to the Fox Theatre this week.

Additionally, the couples don't come across believably. John Jeckyll (Charles Green) and Ramon (Jai Husband) wouldn't be lovers in a million years. Arthur (Clint Horne) and Perry (Paul Spadafora) come across better as a couple, but the actors themselves are bland.

The best reasons to see this show are Ken Hornbeck and Jai Husband, who play Buzz and Ramon, respectively. Hornbeck's Buzz — the most broad character of the bunch and one of two with AIDS — is a terrific creation, a man who is sick but more full of life and hope than all the others.

Husband also really registers. His Ramon — a part that can be just eye candy — is a flesh and blood person. And although Green's John Jeckyll lacks needed edges, the actor's take on brother James is much looser and more on the money.

The writing in "LVC" holds up just fine, but the actors don't take full advantage of McNally's beautiful words.

MORE INFO

'Rent'
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Eatery offers passable **New Orleans-style menu** but nothing special in ever-gentrifying Little Five Points.

Quick trip to French Quarter

AS THE NUMBER OF YOUNG, MARried urbanites increases, so does the number of children associated with them.

That means places like Front Page News in Little Five Points will start showing up in all of Atlanta's former "counter-culture" and bohemian neighborhoods. The place appears to be Little Five Points' answer to the question, "Where are the family restaurants?"

The location in a 100-year-old warehouse on Moreland Avenue is prime real estate for the neighborhood — covered parking, manicured sidewalks and walking distance to all of the new age and antique clothing stores that populate neighboring blocks.

The hostess starts by asking, "Inside or outside?" Isn't that a nice change from "Smoking or non-smoking?" Still, considering the humidity on a recent evening, even the courtyard's authentic New Orleans feel could not tempt me to dine outside.

Inside, the feel is suburban-Kitsch with walls covered in framed newspaper articles, old maps and photographs. I settle into an oversized booth that feels right out of a neighborhood pub.

The dining area is a large room with exposed beams and brick that look to be original to the building. Early for a Sunday night, there are few patrons in the dining room — scattered young couples, one elderly gentleman with three children and a few single drinkers at the bar.

But there is a distinct absence of our fey brothers and sisters at Front Page News. Just about the gayest thing in the place is "Charmed" showing on the TV monitors and "Love to Love You Baby" playing between tracks of college rock.

THE SERVER ARRIVES WITH A GENuinely friendly attitude. The beer and wine selection is moderate and focuses mainly on domestic labels and New Orleans breweries like Dixie Brewing Company. Also prominent is Abita, which the kitchen uses to beer batter some dishes on the menu.

An appetizer menu of bar food regulars is available (Buffalo Wings, Artichoke Dip, Hummus). But I went with a couple of authentic plates, Cajun Jambalaya Egg Rolls ($7.95) and Thibodeaux Shrimp ($8.95). The egg rolls are nicely presented on loose-leaf lettuce with both a horseradish and a sweet sauce.

Quite frankly, they're over-spiced. The taste of the dish is lost amid the heat of the spice. The shrimp, wrapped in bacon and grilled, are a tad overdone and rest on a puddle of sticky-sweet barbeque honey mustard.

Since this is heavy-on-the-stomach cuisine, skip the salad course and go directly to the entrees. Keeping up the New Orleans theme, a Shrimp Po Boy ($8.95) is served with jalapeno cole slaw. The dish is served open-faced and loaded with little fried shrimp nuggets and fresh tomato slices.

The Atlanta summer heat may soon send diners indoors, no matter how inviting the New Orleans-style patio is at Front Page News.

Crab Cakes ($14.95) come accompanied by red beans and rice. Staring into the huge plate of oversized cakes is a bit daunting, but they are nicely flavored and surrounded by a sea of rice and beans.

THE DESSERT MENU HOLDS SUCH belt-busting items as N'awlins Bread Pudding and apple pie with ice cream. I opt for the rather traditional choice with a New Orleans flare: cheesecake with warm pecan-praline sauce ($4.95).

The cheesecake is of top caliber. It stands about two inches high with a good amount of tartness and fluffy texture. The pecan-praline sauce seems as if the most heavenly of praline candy was melted down and poured right over the cheesecake.

Seemingly content with its lot in life, yet experiencing a definite mixed decor, Front Page News is a stable restaurant in a great location, delivering on what it claims: "a quick trip to the French Quarter every time you walk in the door."

FOOD FILE

Front Page News
353 Moreland Ave.
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Food: ★★☆☆☆
Service: ★★☆☆☆
Comfort & Aesthetics: ★★☆☆☆
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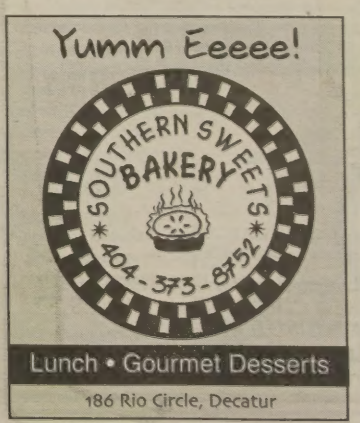

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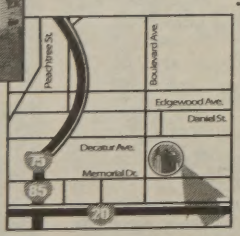

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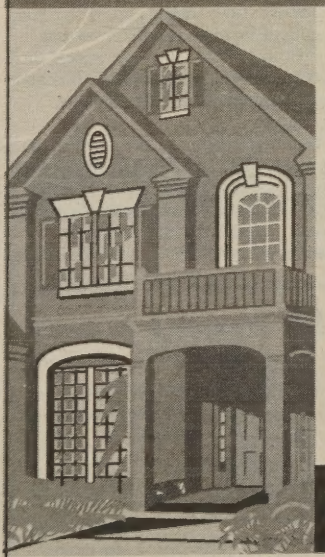
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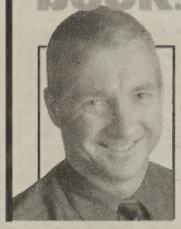


Gay author discusses how classic tome 'A Christmas Carol' inspired latest work that visits **Tiny Tim as a grown man.**

Taking Dickensian license

AUTHOR LOUIS BAYARD'S PREVIOUS novel was a postmodern comedy of manners about a gay guy's quest to become a father. His latest, "Mr. Timothy," is a picaresque mystery-thriller featuring Tiny Tim of "A Christmas Carol" all grown up in Victorian London.

Talk about a change of literary pace.

"I was attracted to the idea of revisiting a well-known book or character," says Bayard, who is gay. "Charles Dickens is probably the largest influence on my work ... having the characters be as vivid as possible, having them be really colorful characters that pop off the page at you. And having an energy in the prose."

There's plenty of energetic prose and colorful characters in the boisterous, bawdy, occasionally disturbing and sometimes quite moving "Mr. Timothy." Only a handful of characters, including Timothy's 'Uncle N' — aka Ebeneezer Scrooge — are borrowed from Dickens. The rest of the novel's rich and rollicking cast are Bayard inventions.

And the narrator, Timothy, is almost unrecognizable without his crutch or winsomeness.

"I never really liked Tiny Tim," Bayard says. "He was too sweet, too pure."

That was then.

In "Mr. Timothy," he's 23 and living in a brothel, where he teaches the madam to read when he's not busy helping a cheery fellow named Captain Gully fish corpses out of the Thames. Their London is simultaneously dreamy and nightmarish, a fabulous yet fetid metropolis teeming with corruption, brutality, and — here and there — beauty.

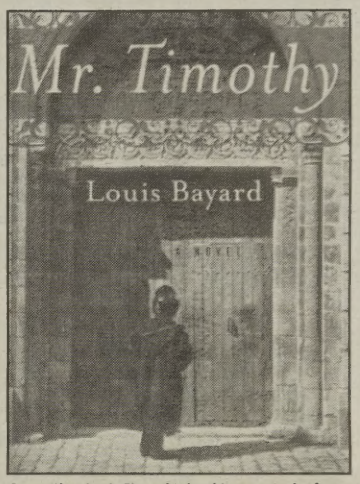
BUT "MR. TIMOTHY" IS HARDLY A Valentine to the city. It's full of matter-of-fact depictions of life among the city's poor — especially its poor children.

"At that time, children were half of London's population," Bayard observes. "These kids had to be very tough."

And in the book, they are. Timothy falls in with a street-smart urchin named "Colin the Melodious" as well as a girl named Philomela, who seems destined to become one of the branded, violated female corpses that haunt the narrator's dreams.

Timothy, Colin and Philomela would seem unlikely heroes, but that's what they become as they discover a repulsive criminal enterprise involving London's upper crust, the police and the ritualized sexual abuse of young girls.

Interspersed among the novel's deftly written action sequences are meditative letters from Timothy to his recently deceased father, Bob Cratchit, whose ghost the narrator sees all over London.



Gay author Louis Bayard takes his cues, and a few characters, from Charles Dickens in 'Mr. Timothy.'

"MR. TIMOTHY" IS NOT MERELY A period romp, but it is also a heartfelt exploration of the tricky difficulties, treacherous resentments and primal power of the father-son relationship.

Bayard says the experiences of watching his own father age and recently becoming a father himself, are reflected in the book. Bayard and his male partner have a three-year-old son.

The novel has what Bayard describes as a "gay vibe" — albeit one that's about the quintessentially gay experience of creating one's own family, rather than romance. Timothy never expresses overtly homosexual feelings, but he seems to have an ambiguous, or perhaps unformed, sexuality.

Bayard's next book will be another mystery-thriller involving, a well-known literary figure.

"It's about Edgar Allen Poe," Bayard says. "I thought it would be fun to make him a detective, since he wrote the first detective novel, 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue.' My book is going to be set at West Point, where Poe (was a cadet) for eight months. There's certainly potential for a homo-erotic vibe there."

MORE INFO

'Mr. Timothy'
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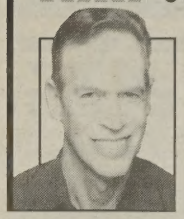

Porn stars, pregnant lesbians, drag queens and Broadway legends should appeal to **moviegoers this summer.**

The best friend of a farm boy (**Emile Hirsch**) is a chicken until he meets a hunky neighbor (**Thomas Guiry**, right) in 'The Mudge Boy.'

Hot summer of gay films

THIS COULD BE THE GAYEST SUMMER on record at movie theaters.

A few films have major distributors and will reach most major cities rather quickly. But the majority come from small, independent distributors whose bookings depend on how well a film fares during its initial engagements in cities such as New York and Los Angeles.

Some distributors go the other way, hoping to build a grass roots record before braving the big cities.

The following list covers some highlights of gay fare in this summer's movie offerings. A few won't be seen between the coasts until fall. Others might play a week only to resurface next year on DVD.

"**Adored: Diary of a Porn Star**" — Writer-director Marco Filiberti plays an Italian screen idol famous for gay porn who reconnects with his straight brother after years of estrangement.

"**Broadway: The Golden Age by the Legends Who Were There**" — Rick McKay interviewed most of the New York stage survivors who matter, including many gay icons, in this anecdotal history.

"**Bulgarian Lovers**" — Gay Spanish director Eloy de la Iglesia returns with the story of a 40-year-old Spaniard (Fernando Guillén Cuervo) being manipulated by a 20-something, bisexual Bulgarian.

"**Cowboys and Angels**" — A young straight man learns about life in the big city from a gay roommate.

"**De-Lovely**" — Cole Porter was straight in his last screen biography ("Night and Day," 1946), but this one starring Kevin Kline comes closer to the gay truth.

"**Gypsy 83**" — A delightful road trip with a plus-sized Stevie Nicks devotee (Sara Rue of TV's "Less than Perfect") and her best friend (Kett Turton), an 18-year-old gay Goth.

"**A Home at the End of the World**" — From an earlier novel by gay author Michael Cunningham ("The Hours"), the story of a ménage à trois between a gay man and a straight couple.

"**Let's Get Frank**" — Barney, that is, in a documentary that revisits his role as a Clinton supporter and anti-Clinton target in the president's sex scandal.

"**The Mudge Boy**" — Traumatized by the death of his mother, a farm boy's (Emile Hirsch) best friend is a chicken, until he finds he likes a hunky neighbor (Thomas Guiry) better.

"**My Mother Likes Women**" — When a Spanish woman comes out as a lesbian, one of her daughters reacts by trying to seduce her lover.

"**Proteus**" — John Greyson's latest is an interracial gay love story set in an 18th-century South African prison colony.

"**Saints and Sinners**" — A documentary about Edward DeBonis and Vincent Maniscalco and their efforts to get married in a Roman Catholic church.

"**She Hate Me**" — In Spike Lee's likely controversial new dramedy, an unemployed executive starts his own business impregnating lesbians for a fee.

"**Showboy**" — Everyone plays a version of themselves in a fictional story about a gay "Six Feet Under" writer (Christian Taylor) who gets fired and goes to Las Vegas to try and become a showboy.

"**The Stepford Wives**" — The writer and director behind the gay comedy "In & Out" turn the old thriller about robotic women into a camp comedy.

"**Superstar in a Housedress**" — Jackie Curtis, Andy Warhol's transvestite star, is recalled by those who knew her, including Lily Tomlin and Harvey Fierstein.

"**A Thousand Clouds of Peace**" — A gay teen (Juan Carlos Ortuño) wanders the streets of Mexico City having sex with men while trying to reconnect with the one he thinks was his "true love."

"**Touch of Pink**" — A visit from his mother is about to out Jimi Mistry, unless the ghost of Cary Grant (Kyle MacLachlan) can help.

"**The 24th Day**" — After learning he contracted HIV from James Marsden, a straight married man (Scott Speedman) kidnaps him and threatens to kill him.

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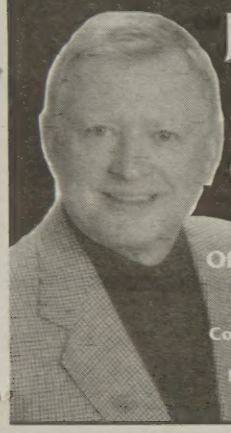

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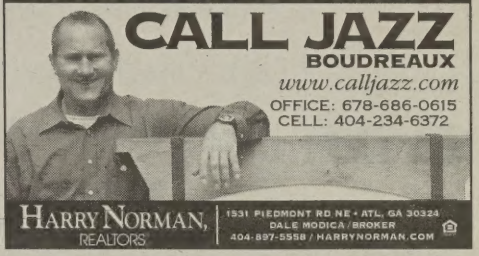

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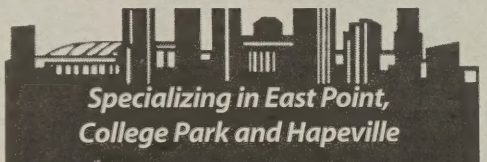

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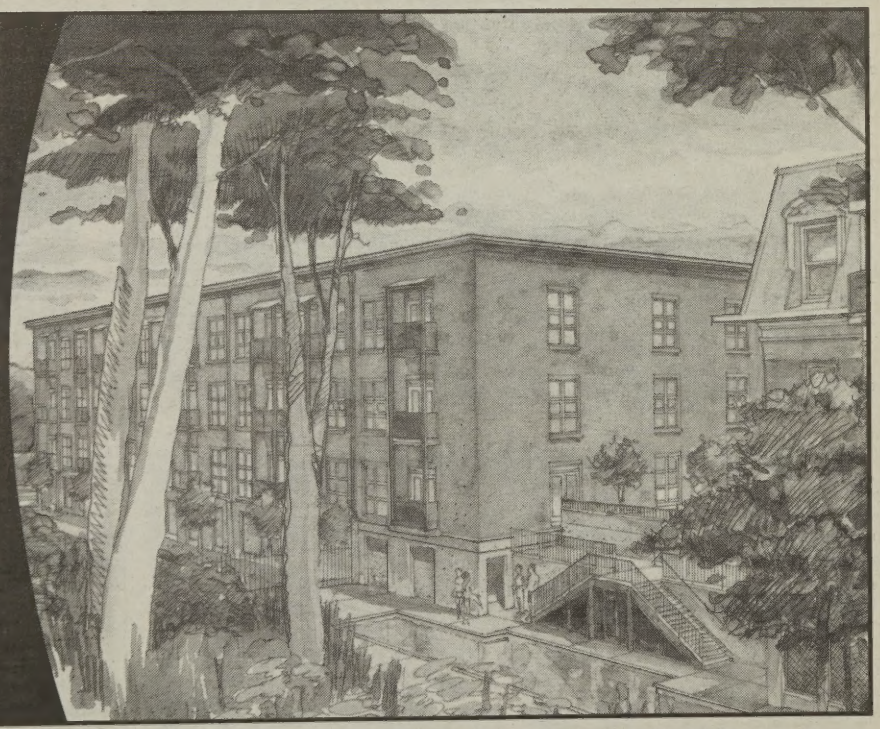

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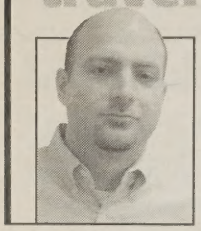


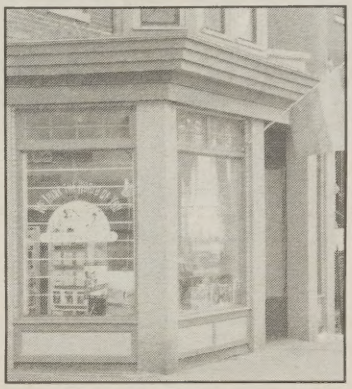
With awe-inspiring historic sites and thriving gay nightlife, **Boston** and its gay-centric South End are worth a visit any time of year.

'Beantown' becomes 'Gaytown'

BOSTON IS A TRUE AMERICAN CITY. It blends its rich colonial past with a sophisticated urban present. Often referred to as "Beantown" because of its association with that culinary delight of baked beans cooked in molasses, a staple in the early founding of the city, today's Boston could easily be called "Gaytown."

The city's revitalized South End offers lively shops, restaurants, bars, galleries and historic brownstones. The area is the epicenter of gay life in Boston. It is located within walking distance from many of Boston's must-see attractions like Newbury Street shopping, Boston Public Garden and the Freedom Trail.

While strolling around the beautifully tree-lined streets, stop by We Think the World of You, a gay bookstore and the South End's de facto community center. Pick up one of Boston's free gay newspapers, and step a few doors away to the lesbian-owned Francesca's Espresso Bar for a cup of coffee and a chance to map out sight-seeing plans.



The bookstore We Think the World of You is just one of several must-do stops on a tour of gay Boston.

MUCH SMALLER THAN MOST MAJOR cities, Boston has a plethora of gay bars and clubs to suit any style and taste, from leather to prep. A good place to start is Club Café, one of the South End's most popular gay establishments. The crowd is very mixed with gay men and lesbians in the two lounge bars and a noticeable amount of open-minded straights in the club's restaurant.

Vapor is a good place for dancing almost any night of the week with an always-thumping dance floor, three bars and a video lounge. Wednesday is Latin night and Thursday is the night to find a nice crowd of black gay brothers and sisters.

Friday nights in Boston are dominated by Machine, located below the Ramrod, one of Boston's many leather bars. The Buzz is the spot to go on Saturdays for hot dancing and even hotter bartenders. And if you still have the energy, Avalon mixes up a beat on Sundays that can be heard across the Charles River into Cambridge.

Gay men dominate the above-mentioned dance clubs, but Boston's ladies also know how to let loose. Thursday is Dyke Night, Boston's longest running lesbian dance event, at the Midway Café in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood adjacent to South End. As an added bonus, much of the proceeds from Dyke Night are donated to gay causes.

The place to see and been seen for lesbians on Saturday nights is in downtown Boston at Club Hollywood at Ekco Lounge.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF CONVENIENT hotels in Boston, but the South End's wonderful assortment of gay-owned B&Bs are the most inviting. The appropriately named 44 Dwight Street Guest House, a beautifully resorted 1860s townhouse, offers three guest rooms — each with its own bath and the latest in modern amenities.

You may want to make a spontaneous trip to the city's annual Pride festivities, which go down next week. Boston held one of the country's first gay pride parades in 1971. Now with more than 40,000 participants, Boston Pride is New England's largest gay pride celebration. The 2004 event runs June 4-13 and includes a parade, festival and block party.

Finally, if you find you get your fill of Boston and need something more, the Bay State Cruise Company can have you in the gay Mecca of Provincetown in just 90 minutes. The company offers three daily departures between May and September.

For those interested in Colonial American history and Federalist architecture, Boston is a city not to be missed. And for those interested in a city with an exciting gay scene, Boston is a city that must be experienced.

MORE INFO

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dish There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

DeGeneres wins big with Emmy, pseudo-lesbian singer comes up pregnant, and a **gay male beauty pageant**.

Talk of the town

THERE WAS NO SCANDAL MAY 21 when lesbian talk show host **ELLEN DEGENERES** kissed a lady that wasn't her girlfriend, **ALEXANDRA HEDISON**. She was showing her affection for Emmy, the statuette that honors the best in television.

At the ceremony for the 31st Annual Daytime Emmy Awards, which aired on NBC, DeGeneres walked away a winner for her syndicated program, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." It was named Outstanding Talk Show of the year, beating out "Dr. Phil," "Live with Regis and Kelly," "The View" and "The Wayne Brady Show."

The hosts of all five shows were also nominated for Outstanding Talk Show Host, and **WAYNE BRADY**, whose show is no longer on the air, won.

DeGeneres' show also received three awards for technical achievement, making it the most-honored talk show this year. It wraps its first season on May 28.

The show's second season begins in early September and will be upgraded to better time slots in 38 of the country's top 100 markets, the Associated Press reported. Reruns will air throughout the summer, along with some unaired hours that were already taped.

In other Daytime Emmy Awards news, **EDEN RIEGEL**, who plays lesbian character Bianca on "All My Children," was nominated for Outstanding Younger Actress in a Drama Series. She didn't win.

Ellen DeGeneres getting close with a lady — a golden lady — backstage at the Daytime Emmy Awards on May 21. (AP Photo by Tina Fineberg)

Baby makes three

TATU, the female Russian duo, made headlines in 2003 with the single "All the Things She Said," a song that promoted the women's supposedly same-sex love relationship. The two talked about and displayed their affection for each other in subsequent interviews. But they never used the "L word," and Dish doesn't mean the Showtime drama.

Lena Katina

Now, **JULIA VOLKOVA**, one of the Tatu members, told the Russian newspaper Zhizn that she is pregnant — not from insemination, but from sex with a man. The man in question is Pasha Sidorov, a karate champion who is married with children.

"I don't know if I am going to have a girl or a boy, and I don't want to know before it's born," she told the newspaper. "Obviously, we will not be celebrating a wedding."

Julie Volkova

Tatu also fired its controversial manager, Ivan Shapovalov, who apparently is responsible for marketing the band's lesbian appeal and the duo's sensationalistic media stunts.

"He spends his time thinking up scandals instead of planning our artistic work," Volkova said.

Volkova and her singing partner, **LENA KATINA**, are set to resume their work as a band after the baby is born at the end of this summer.

Mr. America

Remember in Monopoly when you would win $10 for coming in second place in a beauty contest? Dish was always more amazed by the chintzy prize than by coming in second.

Now Gay.com, the Internet portal and personals site, is throwing a beauty pageant with a much larger prize. Starting June 1, Gay.com users can begin applying to be Mr. Gay.com Universe, a title that comes with a $5,000 prize.

All users with a complete profile and a picture are able to enter, and 50 semi-finalists from five different regions will be chosen. Web surfers choose one man from the 50 contestants from North America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain and Germany. Those five men will then compete for the ultimate title.

So, boys, get to the gym, get some new pictures taken and get on Gay.com ... for something other than cruising.

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Gays turn to Meetup.com in marriage battle

GAY MEETUPS continued from Page 35

"We are providing people with materials they can download off the Web," he said. "But it is up to people who participate to run the meetings and be creative on how they get involved, and I think it is a very energizing thing for people in our community."

The goal for another HRC meet-up on May 25 was to enlist straight friends and family members in the amendment fight, Kilbourn says.

THE MEETINGS STARTED BY HRC IS just one exampled in a long list of gay groups utilizing Meetup.com to mobilize members, according to William Finkel, outreach manager for Meetup.com.

"Gay rights" ranks second on the list of most popular political activism issues that turn people out for meet-ups, Finkel says.

HRC, which has more than 9,000 people now registered on Meetup.com, is the ninth largest association currently holding political activism meet-ups, according to Finkel.

Meetup.com is not politically affiliated with any party but contains more liberal topics than conservative ones, Finkel says.

"Politics was not what we had in mind when we started this," he says. "But what we found was events that meet towards a goal, like gay marriage or anti-gay marriage, do well."

Finkel is quick to point out that Meetup.com also provides opportunities for people to connect in person to discuss more than 4,000 topics, like crafts, pets, food, and the list goes on.

"The phenomenon is not with the Web site itself so much as the forum it creates for people seeking specialized social interaction," Finkel says.

Political topics comprise about 30 percent of Meetup's membership, which totals 1.2 million people.

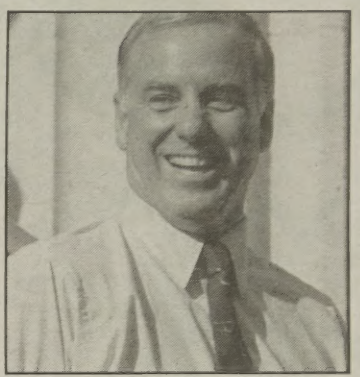
But the publicity over Howard Dean's use of Meetup.com to stimulate grassroots support for his presidential campaign and break Democratic primary fundraising records has attracted "a lot of liberal groups," Finkel says.

FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, Meetup.com is revitalizing engagement in the political process, according to Audrey Haynes, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Georgia.

"It used to be interest groups wanted your money to become a member, and you would just get direct mailings from national headquarters ... but meet-up gives people a chance to meet and become more engaged," Haynes says.

Meetup.com also benefits large national organizations, Kilbourn says.

"It allows people to find each other in smaller towns and for us to find people in those smaller towns," he says.



Former presidential candidate **Howard Dean** popularized Meetup.com with his grass roots campaign. (Photo by AP)

According to Haynes, studies show people need to interact with like-minded others, especially in geographical areas where their ideology is in the minority. Without such interaction, it's possible that a person's convictions are chipped away over time or the person becomes complacent, she says.

"It strengthens your belief and attachment and likelihood of participation," Haynes says.

The Internet makes participation easier by lowering the threshold for engagement, according to John Aravosis, an Internet activist and founder of StopDrLaura.com, DearMary.com and part of the team behind DontAmend.com.

"People are going to the next level of involvement," Aravosis says, adding that more gay activists have been born through increasing agitation over federal and local anti-gay marriage amendments.

At least 30 state legislatures have considered constitutional amendments to ban gay marriage, similar to the federal marriage amendment proposed in Congress, according to stateline.org, a Web site that tracks state laws.

Lawmakers in six states approved putting the amendment up for a public vote in November: Georgia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Utah.

With Meetup.com, local activists are allowed to step up their level of involvement from online activism to engaged, in-person action, and national groups are able to step back and guide local activists to organize themselves, Aravosis said.

"[National groups] are empowering more deputies, so to speak," he said. "I think that's the beauty of it."

Christopher Seely can be reached at **cseely@sovo.com**.

MORE INFO

Meet ups
www.Meetup.com

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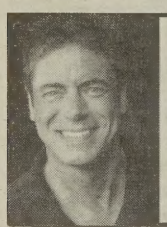

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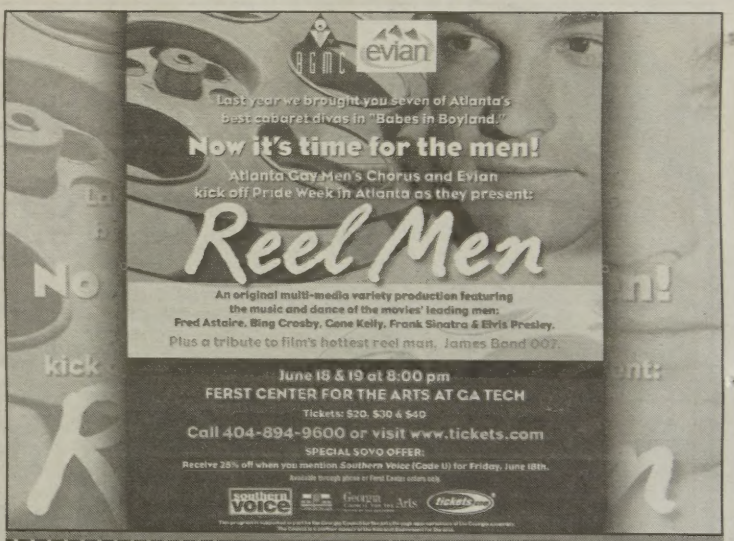
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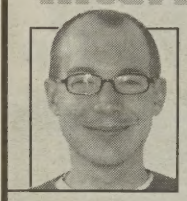

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus benefits from tour of top designers' homes that helps raise **money that keeps them singing.**

The 'Five' home tour benefiting the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus includes looks into the personal spaces of designers (from left) **Bill Cook**, **Jeff Jones**, **Lorenia Vasquez** and **Joye Hirsch**. The tour also includes the homes of designers Kay Douglas and Mimi Williams (not pictured).

Fund-raising high note

LOVERS OF INTERIOR DESIGN AND art get a chance to sing the praises of a quintet of homes on the "Five" design tour, a brainchild of and fund-raiser for the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus.

The June 5-6 tour is set to shine a spotlight on some of Atlanta's most creative and diverse interior designers, from the vantage point of their own houses.

"The event came about when we started kicking ideas around for potential fund-raisers," says Jeff Jones, AGMC event chair. "We thought a tour of designers' homes would be an interesting and distinctive type of event."

Jones and other chorus representatives spoke to several designers about the tour and sought to include homes that would represent a wide variety of looks, he says.

"We didn't want homes with the same styles," Jones says. "So we selected one home and then contrasted it with the next home we selected."

THE HOME OF ATLANTA DESIGNER Mimi Williams is one of the showcased spaces on the inaugural "Five" tour. Jones approached Williams, a designer for 15 years, to include her personal space.

The home shows her creative flourishes, including an extensive art collection, antiques and sculpture.

"The tour will offer individuals an opportunity to find interesting design ideas for their own homes as well as see what inspires designers," Williams says. "The tour features some great design ideas and represents very original and pure creations from designers."

Often, a designer's personal space may diverge from their professional work. Visitors to Williams' home may not wish to emulate her concepts fully, but they have been responsive to individual design elements, she says.

Other designer-owned homes on the tour include Bill Cook's Modern-meets-mid-20th century concept and Joye Hirsch's "edgy approach to the American ranch" with its collection of Southern art and 19th Century American antiques.

Home tourists also get a chance to see the eclectic mix of European antiques, industrial furnishings and architectural pieces from Kay Douglas and the redefined Grant Park bungalow of Lorenia Vasquez and Roland Schwabb.

Each home is distinctive and includes an array of art and architectural flourishes that represent the individual tastes and aesthetics of the designer.

Organizers say community response to the show and tour has been positive.

THE "FIVE" TOUR IS A FUND-RAISER for the chorus that kicks off June 4 with "Before Five ... at 8," a wine and dessert party at the home and garden of designer Lorenia Vasquez, a tour participant. The chorus' ensemble Panache is scheduled to provide live entertainment at the pre-tour event.

Ken Anderson, AGMC executive director, says the tour is one of several events that not only raise funds but also promote the organization.

"The tour is a very exciting prospect," Anderson says. "It provides us with a way to tap into the interest of both the gay and straight communities and helps us involve different segments of the community."

The group recently received a $45,000 two-year grant from the Atlanta Metropolitan Arts Fund, which will fund a marketing and community relations manager position for the 22-year-old group.

The 130-member chorus is funded by corporate and individual donations, fundraisers and grants. Anderson says that almost a quarter of the AGMC budget comes from individual donors with concert ticket sales representing about 40 percent.

This season, the Gay Men's Chorus is set to kick off Atlanta Pride week with a performance of "Reel Men," a compilation of favorite music from film moments June 18-19 at Georgia Tech's Ferst Center for the Arts.

On July 10, the Chorus spotlights "A Gay La La" in preparation for a performance at the Gay & Lesbian Association of Choruses festival in Montreal.

MORE INFO

Five Tour of Homes
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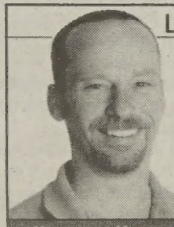

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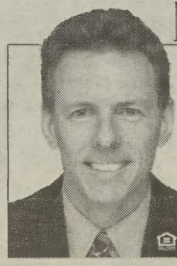

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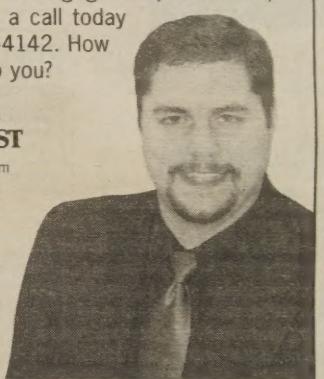

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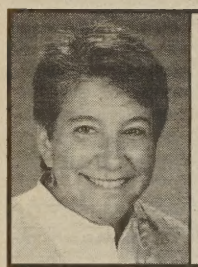

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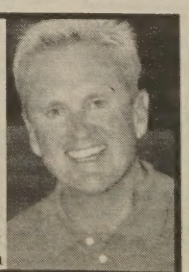

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AVONDALE ESTATES Prof GM & his dog, looking for responsible GM or GF to share 4 BR, 2 BA house w/ garage. Priv BA, CATV, fenced back yard. No smoke/drugs. $550/mo incl utils. Refs & dep req'd. Call (404) 284-8001

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MIDTOWN 3rd to share 3 BR, 2 BA. Furn except BR. WD, prkg, cable, must like dog/cats. $400/mo all inclusive except phone. 1st & half of last for move in. No cigarettes. Chuck (404) 320-9629.

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Naked Boys Singing - Casting, 925B Peachtree ST NE # 313, Atlanta GA, 30309. All types will be considered.

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Jane's World
by Paige Braddock
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I HELPED ALEXA DYE HER HAIR BLUE AND GET A CREW CUT.
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YEAH... WOMEN TAKE THEIR HAIR SOOOO SERIOUSLY...
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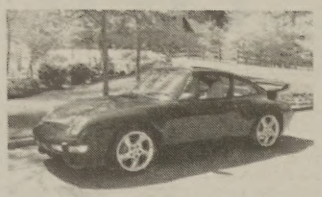

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TROY
By Michael Derry
#89 "AND BE HONEST WITH ME!"
...SO SHE SAID I WAS A LOUSY ACTOR, BUT NOT TO WORRY. I'M GOING TO BE A BIG STAR BECAUSE I HAVE A GREAT ASS! WHAT DO YOU THINK? AM I A LOUSY ACTOR? AND BE HONEST WITH ME!
MEANING TELL ME ONLY WHAT I WANT TO HEAR AND PLEASE!!! TRY TO MAKE IT A COMPLETE THOUGHT!
AWWW, DUDE! HOW COULD YOU EVEN BELIEVE THAT? AND BESIDES, YOU KNOW I'M ALWAYS HONEST WITH YOU!
OH SHIT! THERE'S THAT "O" WORD! DON'T PANIC! DON'T PANIC! THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY! I'M TAKING TOO LONG! SHIT! HURRY UP!!!
HE'S JUST JEALOUS! AND YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BRILLIANT ACTOR!
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I DO IF I WANT TO HAVE SEX TONIGHT!
LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK BUT, OK. AND POINTS FOR KNOWING SUCH A BIG WORD!
BUT WAIT A MINUTE. DOES THAT MEAN I'M NOT GOING TO BE FAMOUS BECAUSE I'M NOT THAT GOOD LOOKING?
THIS IS FUN! AND HE'S SO CUTE WHEN HE SQUIRMS!
WHOA!!! WAS THAT A DOUBLE NEGATIVE? MY BRAIN HURTS!
TROY, WE BOTH KNOW THAT IN THIS BUSINESS YOU GOT TO HAVE THE LOOKS TO GET YOUR FOOT THROUGH THE DOOR, BUT ONCE YOU'RE IN, YOU GOT TO HAVE THE TALENT TO BACK IT UP. AND DUDE, TRUST ME! YOU GOT BOTH!
IT'S GOING..! IT'S GOING..!!!
YOU KNOW, I JUST LOVE IT THAT WE CAN BE SO OPEN AND HONEST WITH EACH OTHER!
YEA. ME TOO!
WELL DONE! NOW SHUT UP AND TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF ALREADY!
AND IT'S GONE! HOME RUN! I'M GONNA GET SOME AFTER ALL!
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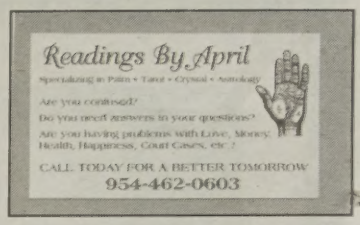
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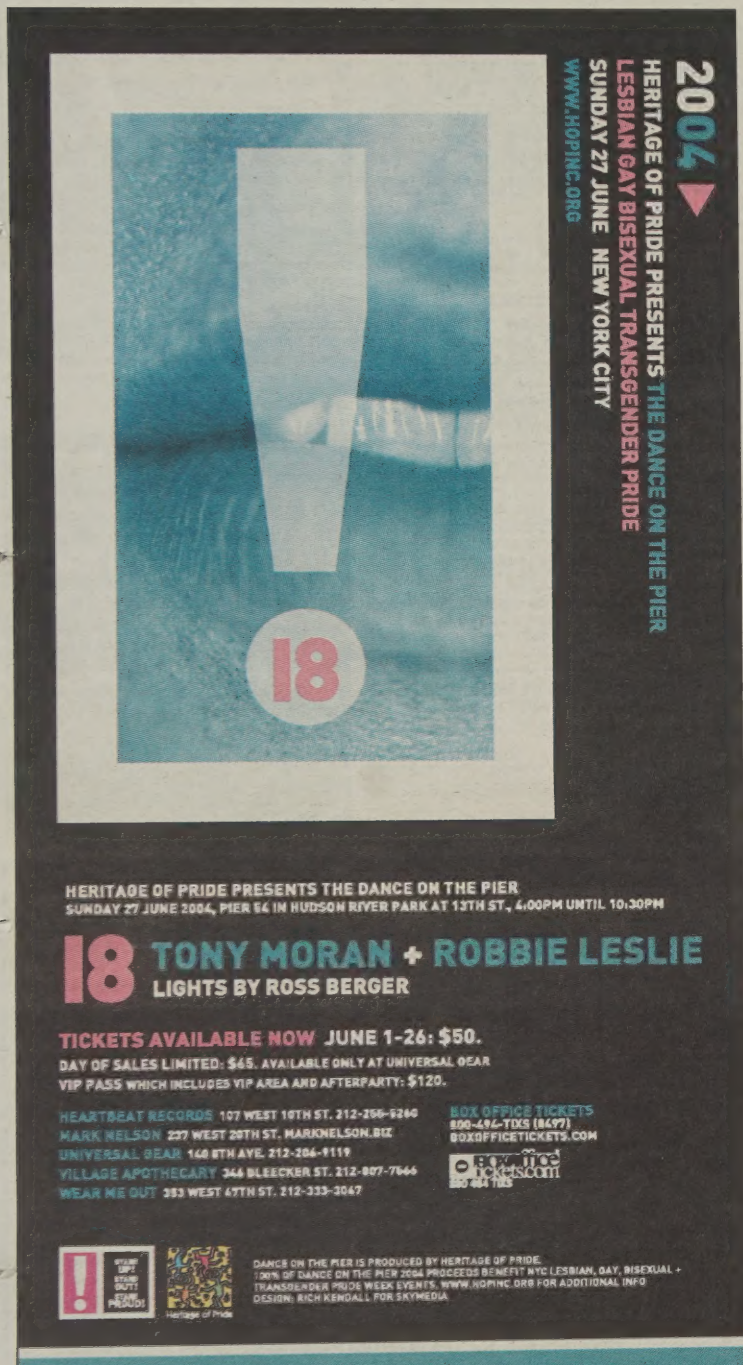

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national news

Top Mass. lawyer says out-of-state licenses are void

1913 LAW, continued from **Page 13**

specifically refers to intermarrying, the joining of people across races. That statute was passed explicitly as a racial statute and it has since been nullified by Loving vs. Virginia when the high court struck down the law as being 'repugnant' of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution."

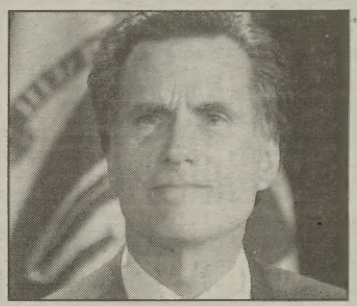
Chapter 207, Sections 11, 12, 13 of the General Laws of Massachusetts state, "No marriage shall be contracted in this commonwealth by a party residing and intending to continue to reside in another jurisdiction if such marriage would be void if contracted in such other jurisdiction."

But Section 12 adds that whomever has the authority to issue the license, "shall satisfy himself, by requiring affidavits or otherwise, that such person is not prohibited from intermarrying by the laws of the jurisdiction where he or she resides."

Opponents of the 1913 law, like Norfolk District Attorney Keating, have seized on Section 12 — particularly the term "intermarrying" — as proof that the law had racist origins.

But according to Reilly, the statute — while rarely enforced — is still the law and was not created out of animus toward interracial couples.

In a May 21 letter to clerks in Provincetown, Springfield, Worcester and Somerville, Reilly argued, "There is not the slightest evidence that this purpose [preventing interracial marriages] actually motivated the Massachusetts Legislature, which had repealed the commonwealth's ban on interracial marriage in 1843."



Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney** has indicated he will veto any attempt by the Legislature to overturn a 1913 law that denies marriage licenses to gay couples living outside the state. (Photo by AP)

The letter added that the law was created by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, a body of judges, professors, lawyers and scholars who originally proposed the statute in 1912 to create equal statutes from state to state and also to prohibit a variety of marriages.

Such prohibitions included, "'Marriages with particeps criminis [i.e., with an accomplice, a prohibition created by the divorce laws of some states in cases of adultery], or with a minor without parental consent, or within a specified time after entry of final decree in divorce, or between a white and a colored person,'" Reilly wrote.

Reilly added that the term "intermarry" in Section 12 of Chapter 207 of Massachusetts law was not a reference to interracial marriages but rather was "used in a much broader sense in statutes dating back to the 18th century," noting St. 1785, Chapter 69, "no man or woman shall intermarry within specified degrees of relationship."

To buttress his position, Reilly cited Associate Supreme Judicial Court Justice John M. Greaney's concurring opinion in Goodridge vs. the Department of Health — the case that legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts — in which Greaney wrote that the 1913 statute remains valid.

"The argument, made by some in the case, that legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts will be used by persons in other states as a tool to obtain recognition of a marriage in their state that is otherwise unlawful, is precluded by the provision of G.L. c. 207, 11, 12, and 13," wrote Justice Greaney, who voted with the narrow 4-3 majority in the case.

Mary Bonauto, the lawyer who successfully argued the Goodridge case, said the law did have origins in racism, as made clear by the National Conference of Commissioners final report and added that Justice Greaney's inclusion of the 1913 law in his concurring opinion was not the subject of the Goodridge case.

Future of 1913 law

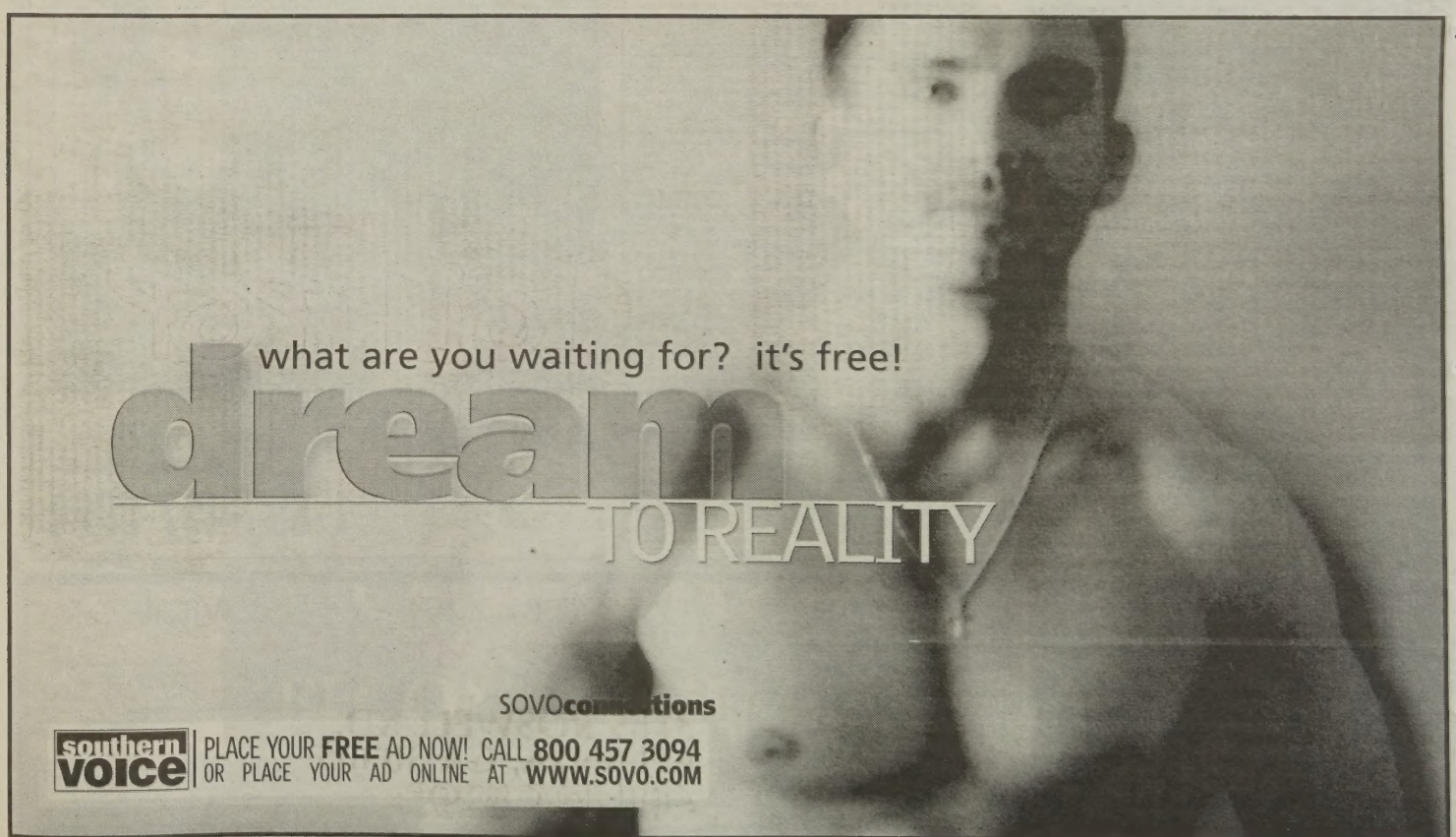
The Massachusetts Senate on May 19 voted 28-3 to repeal the 1913 law. The vote was on an amendment to the state budget the Senate was considering.

Arline Issacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, said the challenge now is to convince the House Conference Committee to include it in the House budget, a move that is unlikely, she said.

"The odds are stacked hugely against us," Issacson said. "We will keep trying, but at the moment it is not looking very good. House Speaker Thomas Finneran told the Boston Globe that he did not want it in there and Romney has already announced he would veto such an amendment."

Issacson said that it is possible the statute could be repealed legislatively or judicially before 2006, the earliest date the Massachusetts Constitution could be amended to ban gay marriage.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.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Men Seeking Men

SEEKING NICE GUY
GWM, 26, 5'9", 200lbs, blond/blue, outgoing and energetic, loves the outdoors, and quiet times at home. Looking for open-minded, kind man, 21-50, who is fun to be around. Douglas ☎210520

CIRCLE THIS AD
SHM, 29, with a thin and in shape build, is considered attractive, fun and light-hearted. Seeking a man for movies, dancing and more. Gainesville ☎217487

LOVE AND AFFECTION
Hard-working man, 28, wants to meet a man who is down-to-earth and loves to talk, for a good relationship. Savannah ☎215064

MIAMI TRANSPLANT
Tennis, golf and running keep this 24-year-old SBM in shape. Entertainment lawyer, 5'8", 200lbs, N/S, seeks cool guy, 21-35, for shopping, travel, spending time with friends. Fayetteville ☎223167

CALL ME
SM, 6', 195lbs, athletic build, in great shape, interested in meeting someone who is good with their hands and want sot just have some fun. Atlanta ☎214087

LIFE OF THE PARTY
WM, 34, 6'1", 220lbs, brown/hazel, really outgoing and zany, looking for SM, 28-42, who can appreciate my outrageous side. Atlanta ☎212385

MAYBE IT'S YOU
SBM, 22, 5'5", 240lbs, brown complexion and eyes, very masculine EMT, enjoys reading and good times. Looking for a friend to talk to, share movies, park walks, dining and more. Riverdale ☎124495

PENSACOLA NATIVE
Discreet BM bottom, 38, HIV negative, seeks WM top, 30-50, medium-built, masculine who is fun-loving, outgoing, enjoys quiet evening at home, movies, music, HIV negative. Cuddling a plus. ☎209839

LAST OF A DYING BREED
Hopelessly romantic, relationship-oriented, intelligent, passionate, honest, attractive SBM, 34, 5'8", 175lbs, versatile bottom, seek long-term, monogamous relationship with masculine, affectionate , communicative SBM, 35+, 5'9"+, with medium to stocky build. Whitesburg ☎11494

TOWN AND COUNTRY
GWM, bottom, 37, 5'11", 140lbs, slim, healthy, HIV+, honest, affectionate, smoker, seeks husky, stocky GWM, top, 37-47, who enjoys city life along with the great outdoors, for possible LTR. Atlanta ☎803103

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
SBM, 34, 6', 185lbs, enjoys dining out, movies, romance, laughter, helping people, the outdoors, quiet evenings home, traveling and more. Seeking intelligent, honest, caring SM, 28-55, for friendship, maybe more. Decatur ☎993708

CALL ME
SWM, 34, 5'9", 165lbs, smooth, submissive, discreet, D/D-free, looking for very dominant men for hopefully regular meetings. Portsmouth ☎988155

SEEKING THE REAL THING
WM, 35, looking for a serious relationship with WM, 30-39. Must be honest, faithful and ready to settle down. Portsmouth ☎983541

BEEN THROUGH IT ALL
SWM, 30, 5'6", 140lbs, brown/hazel, Irish, clean-cut, well-groomed homebody, funny, genuine, honest, loves progressive/trance music. Seeking similar pretty boy-type, 18-25. ☎948889

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Hard-working GWM, 30, enjoys beaches, weekend getaways, movies, romance, conversation, walks in the park, roller coasters and more. Seeking fun, wild SM, 33-50, N/S, who is romantic, for companionship. East Cobb Station ☎942665

A TRUE ROMANTIC
Honest, sincere GWM, 35, 5'11", 190lbs, blue-eyed blond, HiV+ but quite healthy, enjoys anything outdoors, cooking, movies, dining out, relaxing at home, more. Seeking GWM, 35-50, with similar interests. Chattanooga ☎927822

GIVING YOU THE BEST
SWM, 38, 5'10", likes movies, dining out. Looking for naturally hair-less, clean-cut SM, 18-30, full lips, somewhat quiet, likes the simple things in life, camping, outdoor sports. Beachview ☎911230

A DREAM COME TRUE
SBM, 25, 148lbs, masculine, likes the outdoors, traveling. Looking for a cool, down-to-earth SM, 21-31, likes movies, going out occasionally, having fun, chilling at home, more. Senoia ☎906002

EASY TO PLEASE
SBM, 32, works as a nurse, D/D-free, seeks a man for movies, dining, shopping and travel. ☎889667

WHO ARE YOU?
SWM, 35, smoker, drinker, N/Drugs, writer, mohawk, likes long road trips, critiquing movies, dancing, lamenting the passing of late-night Atlanta. Who are you? ☎889606

SOUTHERN IMPERFECTION
Honest, loyal, true romantic, yet slightly flawed native Georgia country boy 30, w/stable home and career, who enjoys the outdoors, mountains biking, movies and Nascar. Seeking imperfect good-hearted masculine man. ☎878951

FRIEND, MENTOR AND MORE
SWM, 33, Cancer, N/S, 5'9", 173lbs, brown/blue-green, likes the outdoors, the mountains, theater, good movies, talks about life, football games, not into bars, seeks non-judgmental SWM, 18-45, conversation and more. Duluth ☎829485

BOYS, BOYS, BOYS
SBM, 23, 6', 175lbs, dark complexion, smokes, very fun-loving, outgoing, sweet, sexy, down-to-earth. Looking for exact same, 18-25, must be masculine. Atlanta ☎998258

ORIGINALLY FROM CHICAGO
SBM, 42, 5'4", 150lbs, likes automobiles, cooking, dining out, jazz, gospel. Seeking SM, 18-50, same height and weight range, friends first, possibly more. Atlanta ☎995937

WILD AND FUN
SBM, 24, 5'11", 192lbs, light-skinned, loves dancing, singing, shopping, spending time with family and friends. Seeking compatible male, 24-40, friends first. Memorial Square ☎202455

FAIRY TALE ENDING
SWM, 18, 6'1", 210lbs, works at a bakery. Seeking SWM, 18-30, slim to muscular build, for casual dating. Marietta ☎202355

HI THERE!
SM, 56, business owner, 6'1", 185lbs, likes model trains/railroads, good company, fine dining, music, museums and the arts. Seeking confident, educated, good-humor, goal-oriented man for friendship and lasting companionship. Carrollton ☎123217

SINGLE IN SAVANNAH
SBM, 24, 5'7", 140lbs, D/D-free, very feminine, honest, affectionate, loveable. ISO masculine SBM, 18-65, D/D-free, honest, affectionate, for relationship, more. Savannah ☎113957

SINGLE PHYSICIAN
GWM, 41, 5'7", 153lbs, fit, looks younger than stated age. intelligent, sensitive, honest, flexible, romantic, passionate, articulate, and financially secure. Although I enjoy the finer things in life, they are not my priority; spirituality and faith are more important. Seeking well-educated professional GWM, between the ages of 33-45, who is seeking companionship and perhaps genuine intimacy, he should be comfortable with himself and mature. Must be able to hold an intelligent conversation and should enjoy travel, dining, companionship, etc. Atlanta ☎975433

LET'S GO RACING!
GWM, 41, brown/blue, average looks and build, seeks hairy male for monogamous LTR. I enjoy beaches, outdoors, music, movies, racing. Smoker, moderate drinker ok, N/Drugs. Highway 5 ☎936252

SEEKING YOUNGER GUY
SWM, 44, 5'11", 190lbs, N/S, with good job, seeks WM, 18-40, N/S, who loves travel, the country, cuddling by the fireplace, church. Monticello ☎935022

CARING SWM...
tired of being alone. SWCM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎116827

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE
SWM, 6', 230lbs, 53, looking for younger man, D/D-free, who's sincere, trustworthy and honest, to share walks, quiet times homes, fun times, friendship and maybe more. Atlanta ☎119981

CUTE AND AVAILABLE
SWM, 39, 5'6", professional hair technician, likes dancing, movies, dinners, joking around. Seeking like-minded male, 23-50, friends first, possibly more. Fort Lauderdale ☎117049

NO GAMES
SBM, 24, 6'2", 161lbs, tall, slender, goatee, sideburns, short hair, very attractive, nice, down-to-earth, likes dining out, movies, walks in the park. Seeking SM, 21-35, friends first, more. Whitfield ☎115970

LET'S TALK
SHM, 23, 5'8", athletic build, enjoys dining out, movies, music, romance, laughter, the outdoors, good conversation, good company and more. Seeking outgoing, intelligent, down-to-earth SW/HM, 18-48, for friendship, maybe more. Cantonment ☎992815

MUSCULAR COUNTRY BOY
Masculine WM, 42, looking for muscular, fit WM, 30-45, for friendship and dating first, possible ITR. Portsmouth ☎983465

READY FOR RELATIONSHIP
SWM, 50, likes going out, having fun, looking for that right guy. You: SH/WM, 35-50, would like to share our common interests. Port Saint Joe ☎976365

A REAL RELATIONSHIP
SBM, 22, seeks SBM, 18-22, who is compatible, down-to-earth, real, not about games, and has great communication skills. Fayetteville St Mall ☎943499

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
SM, 23, 5'7", 155lbs, HIV+, enjoys movies, hanging out, music, reading, having fun. Seeking SM, 18-40, N/S, for relationship. Must be real and honest. Memorial Square ☎939511

DETROIT NATIVE
SM, 42, 5'7", 165lbs, blond/blue, looking for a male, 18-42, easygoing, laid-back. Hoping to meet you soon! Unadilla ☎937435

TOP GUN
SBM, 41, 160lbs, wavy/brown, enjoys quiet times with that special someone; SW/BM, 22-28. I enjoy movies, getting to know you! Pensacola ☎937199

WHY WAIT?
SWM, 44, 6'4", 185lbs HIV+ but healthy, athletic, enjoys sports, music, outdoors, life's simple pleasures. Seeking similar male, 25-48, easygoing, laid-back, for nights out or quiet evenings at home. Atlanta ☎932144

SEEK QUALITY GUY
Very attractive WM, 19, bottom, likes good conversation and having fun. Looking for intelligent down-to-earth guy who can hold a conversation, for intimate friendship, maybe more. Douglasville ☎928555

NEW TO THE AREA
WM, 5'9", 150lbs, brown/green, wants to meet a new friend, 18-26. Let's start with dating and see what happens. Alpharetta ☎922959

HIT ME UP
SBM, 20, 5'9", 120lbs, mustache, goatee, masculine, fresh out of college. Seeking SBM, 18-28, preferably tall and dark-skinned, nice mind, likes going out, enjoying life to the fullest. Charlotte ☎899956

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We had a class together, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We looked at each other the whole semester and didn't say a word. I regret it. ☎216134

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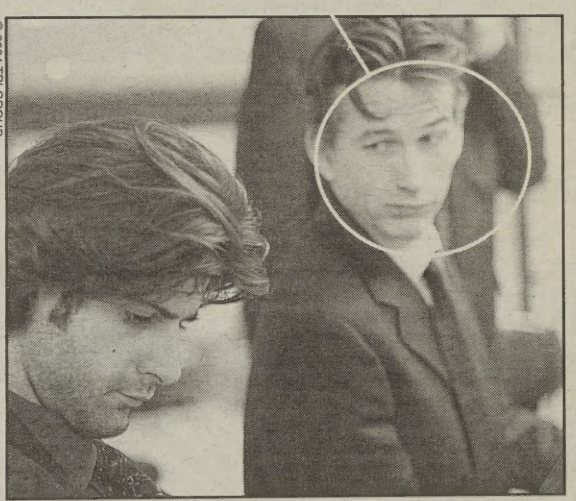

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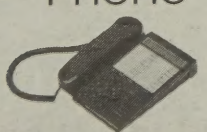

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BEST FRIEND AND MORE
SBM, 21, Capricorn, N/S, seeks friendly, nice, down-to-earth man, 18-35, for friendship, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎897077

CARE TO SHARE?
SWM, 20, from Bartow, seeks caring SWM, 20-35, to share friendship, companionship and possible long-term relationship. Cartersville ☎896956

CAN YOU LOOSEN YOUR TIE?
SBM, 33, 5'9", N/S, professional, independent, lives alone, seeks responsible, independent, masculine WM, 25-42, N/S, who also likes to unwind, have fun, dine, watch movies, travel. Atlanta ☎880412

LIKES PLAYING SPORTS
WM, 5'4", brown/green, bodybuilder, likes the beach. Would like to meet another health-conscious, fit man, 35-50, for friendship. We'll see what happens from there. Dania ☎873596

Women Seeking Women

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR?
SF, 5'4", 142lbs, loves going to movies, reading, learning about different cultures, playing pool, dining out. Would like to meet a female, 22-30, who is into the same. College Park ☎983134

AS YOU TRULY ARE
SBF, 38, 5'3", average build, light brown complexion, Sagittarius, N/S, feminine, honest, sincere, seeks BF, 28-42, N/S, who is willing to be herself, respectful of others beliefs. Belvedere ☎827034

PENSACOLA DREAMIN'
SWF, 38, tall, slender, professional, femme seeks someone to share life's passions and adventures with. Enjoy travel the outdoors, motorcycles, dining, quiet times. Pet lovers a must! Pensacola ☎123123

AGGRESSIVE FEMME ISO...
other attractive, feminine lesbians, 27-35, for friendship, casual dating and possible LTR. I'm a goal-oriented, hard-working SBF, 27, who enjoys good company and a sincere, drama-free life. Marietta ☎207824

COOL WE BE
Romantic, athletic, hard-working, quiet SBF, 22, 5'4", 125lbs, trustworthy, honest, understanding, independent, enjoys movies, dining, skiing horseback, racing and more. Seeking honest, independent, feminine SB/WF, 25-29, 145-175lbs, for possible LTR. Stockbridge ☎207538

SINCREE AND WARM-HEARTED
Affectionate GBF, 30, 5'3", soft butch, full-figured, auburn/hazel, in retail, likes scifi films, reading, picnics, weekend getaways, clubs, people, pets, sporting events, cooking. Seeking similar SF for happiness and LTR. Riverdale ☎125692

BUTCH MASSAGE THERAPIST
Butch SF, 49, N/S, enjoys walking dog. Seeking more top than not femme, versed in both rolls, looking for part-time love and dinner date. I'm spiritual, not religious. Briarcliff ☎206720

JUST BE YOURSELF
SBF, 30, 110lbs, butch, enjoys basketball, wrestling, movies, dining out, walks in the park, the outdoors, clubbing, dancing and more. Seeking laid-back, confident, honest SF, 21-30, for friendship, maybe more Atlanta ☎990961

BE HONEST AND FRANK
GBF, 40, 5'6", masculine, loves sports, working, friends, family, dining out, the outdoors and more. Seeking feminine, confident, intelligent SF, 30-44, for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎990759

A LOVE STORY
SBF, 33, 5'3", 150lbs, fun-loving, adventurous, spontaneous, open-minded, drugs, drama, disease-free. Seeking like-minded female, 25-45, social drinker, likes quiet nights home, parks, movies. Birmingham ☎909668

LET THE FUN BEGIN
GWPF, 40, interested in meeting emotionally available, stable woman, 35-48, with a healthy family relationship. I enjoy the ballet, musicals, theater, biking. Atlanta ☎840258

SINGLE MOTHER
Attractive BF, 27, college student, in search of Miss Right. I've been looking for her for a while. She will become a good friend to me, hopefully leading to LTR. Portsmouth ☎204751

SPONTANEITY IS A PLUS
SWF, 34, enjoys life, boating, jet skis, traveling, friends, laughter, the outdoors, movies, romance, honesty and more. Seeking intelligent, honest, humorous SWF, 28-45, for friendship, maybe more. Lawrenceville ☎994120

CAN WE GROW TOGETHER?
SBF, 25, 5'8', 125lbs, Scorpio, enjoys playing pool, basketball, going skating, more. Seeking SF, 23-32, can be themselves, won't bring drama or games, dating, possible LTR. Alpharetta ☎975048

LET'S WORK IT OUT
BF, 5'3", 146lbs, reddish-brown hair, looking for a mature, sexy, spontaneous woman, 35-36, to share friendship first. If it becomes more, great. Jonesboro ☎926024

SEEKING SOULMATE
35-year-old SBF, attractive, full-figured, soft-stud, 5'9", hazel eyes, light brown complexion, enjoys sports, romantic walks, dining out, movies, traveling, good conversation, seeks feminine female, for friendship, possible relationship. Griffin ☎897775

PERSONAL BEST
SBF, 32, no dependents, self-employed, enjoys singing, dancing, skating, bowling, reading, very God-fearing, seeking SF, 32-45, who is the best person she can be. Atlanta ☎896523

WALK WITH ME
SBF, 28, wants to meet a woman for romantic weekends, filled with dinner, walks on the beach and dancing. ☎891514

ME MY LADY
Single mom, 27, 5'4, 160lbs, with a pecan complexion, two tatoos and rings, seeks a woman to share a good friendship and maybe more. ☎890813

SOMETHING TO BUILD ON
SBF, 26, Taurus, smoker, 5'2", mother, lives in Mobile AL, construction worker, affectionate, seeks domestic woman, 18-45, for friendship first, possible relationship down-the-line. ☎830026

HELLO OUT THERE
Attractive GBF, 30, 5'6", 140lbs, seeks easygoing, yet aggressive, passionate, trustworthy woman, 27-36, who enjoys movies, music and excitement. Rome ☎793850

BEEN AROUND THE WORLD
SBF, 22, 5'9", 130lbs, entertainer, seeking beautiful, tall, athletic SF, 19-30, under 130lbs, light complexion, for friendship, dating, possibly more. Bolen Town ☎995517

GOT TIL IT'S GONE
SBPF, 44, enjoys traveling, concerts, movies, clubs, playing pool. Seeking honest, mature, feminine female, 30-43, for dating, companionship, more. Ellenwood ☎201165

ISO TRUE SOUTHERN BUTCH
Beautiful, exotic, full-figured make-up artist, 39, carefree, loves martinis and a mean game of Scrabble. Seeking a butch who truly understands the butch/femme dynamic. Must be independent. N/S, N/Drugs. Smyrna ☎947168

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
SBF, 45, seeks , tall, curvy, slightly overweight, private SB/HF, 37-48, who enjoys conversation, romance, one on one time,who enjoys life. Atlanta ☎942070

LOOKING FOR LTR
SF, 36, 5'6", 195lbs, stud, looking for feminine lady, 25-30, who is romantic, down-to-earth, intelligent. Norcross ☎935646

TORN JEANS AND JERSEYS
Confident GWF, 42, funny, cute, outgoing, romantic. You: feminine, attractive, easygoing, confident, sexy, strong sense of self, can wear torn jeans, football jerseys, baseball hats and look like a woman. Atlanta ☎925362

I CAN LOVE YOU BETTER
SWF, 38, 5'2", 100lbs, brown/brown, Aquarius, enjoys camping, occasional clubbing, and movies. Seeking WF, 28-43, employed and drama-free. ☎761193

LOOKING 4 FUN
Attractive, mature, fun SWF, 20, 5'10", 180lbs, brown/brown, tan complexion. Seeking attractive, fun-loving girl, 18-30, for friendship, maybe more. ☎956901

MORE THAN WORDS
SBF, 43, butch, shy at first, enjoys watching movies, biking, walking, jazz, romantic weekends, seeking a loving SF, 38-48, to make things work with. Atlanta ☎947461

LETS FLY
Down-to-earth, loving, caring, sensitive SBF, soft butch, 52, 5'7", N/Drugs, very independent, secure, art, music, reading, quiet times at home. Seeking semidependent, stable, secure, spiritual, drug-free SB/HF, 45-55. Atlanta ☎917172

WHAT A GOOD CATCH
Honest, intelligent, stable, funny SWF, 41, loving character and strength, shy at first, warms up quickly. Seeking compatible, compassionate mate, 32-42, to give my faithful, loving heart to. Snellville ☎901183

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
SBF, 42, soft stud, N/S, N/D, seeks feminine, honest, mature SF, 30-55, for friendship and more. Just be yourself. La Grange ☎111515

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SBF, 42, looking for that special woman to make my world complete. I'm very level-headed, likes going out, staying home. Seeking same, good sense of humor. ☎953175

BROOKLYN ORIGINAL
SBF, 41, 5'5", great cook, loves pets, sports, beaches. Seeking feminine lady, age and race not important, interested in good times, chilling, traveling, plays, more. ☎954132

CENTERED IN SPIRIT
Attractive SWF, 48, average build, health-conscious, emotionally stable, spiritual, attends church, leads metaphysical life. Seeking open, spiritual partner with kind, gentle, compassionate heart. Douglasville ☎948822

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Fit, active GBF, 52, loves movies, stores, the arts, theater, films. Looking for GF, 45-60, to share these interests. Romantic relationship. Atlanta ☎948541

BE MY FRIEND FIRST
SBF, N/S, loves reading love novels, fishing, black authors, music. Seeking similar female, 23-40, stud, for possible relationship. ☎933192

TAKE A CHANCE
SBF, 37, soft stud, professional, enjoys travel, concerts, movies, the beach, going to clubs occasionally. Looking for honest, mature, feminine female, 25-35, who likes the same things I do. Jacksonville ☎921287

HOW ABOUT A DATE?
Feminine BF, mom of two at home, looking for an outgoing, spontaneous female, 43-50, who is nice. Jacksonville ☎810973

Just Friends

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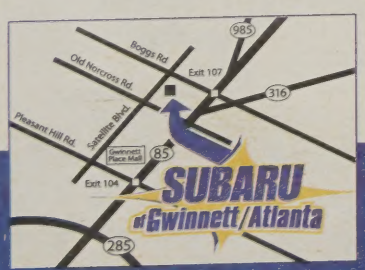

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